REC-3 RECREATION FACILITY CONDITION ASSESSMENT TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

KERN RIVER NO. 3 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT FERC PROJECT No. 2290

PREPARED FOR:



KERNVILLE, CALIFORNIA

October 2023

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Photos

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADA Americans with Disabilities Act

FERC Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

GIS geographic information system

KR3 Kern River No. 3

Project Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2290)

RSP Revised Study Plan

SCE Southern California Edison

SPD Study Plan Determination

SQF Sequoia National Forest

USFS U.S. Forest Service

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Technical Memorandum provides the methodology and findings of field surveys associated with the *REC-3 Recreation Facility Condition Assessment* Study (REC-3 Study). The REC-3 Study was conducted in support of Southern California Edison's (SCE) Kern River No. 3 (KR3) Hydroelectric Project (Project) relicensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2290. The final REC-3 Study Plan was included in SCE's Revised Study Plan (RSP) submitted on July 1, 2022 (SCE, 2022). In the October 12, 2022, Study Plan Determination (SPD) (FERC, 2022), FERC approved the REC-3 Study without modifications.

Field data collection and recreation facility condition assessments were conducted in October 2022. All data collection and analysis are complete, summarized below, and being filed with FERC as part of SCE's Initial Study Report.

2.0 STUDY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study, as outlined in the final REC-3 Study Plan (SCE, 2022), are as follows:

- Conduct a facility inventory and condition assessment at existing developed (formal) recreation facilities and associated parking areas, including an evaluation of signage and public safety features.
- Assess the condition and potential for universal accessibility, where feasible.
- Identify existing dispersed (informal) recreation sites and document existing conditions.

3.0 STUDY AREA AND STUDY SITES

3.1. DISPERSED RECREATION SITE ASSESSMENT

The study area and specific study sites are focused on non-Project U.S. Forest Service (USFS)-operated dispersed (informal) campsites and parking areas along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach. The locations are listed below and shown in Figure 3.1-1.

- Calkins Flat Dispersed Camping (non-Project facility)
- Chamise Flat Dispersed Camping (non-Project facility)
- Ant Canyon Dispersed Camping (non-Project facility)
- Old Goldledge Dispersed Camping (non-Project facility)
- Spring Hill Dispersed Camping (non-Project facility)
- Corral Creek Dispersed Camping (non-Project facility)
- Chico Flat Dispersed Camping (non-Project facility)

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¹ The Fairview Dam Bypass Reach is defined as the approximatly 16-mile bypass reach of the North Fork Kern River between Fairview Dam and the KR3 Powerhouse trailrace.

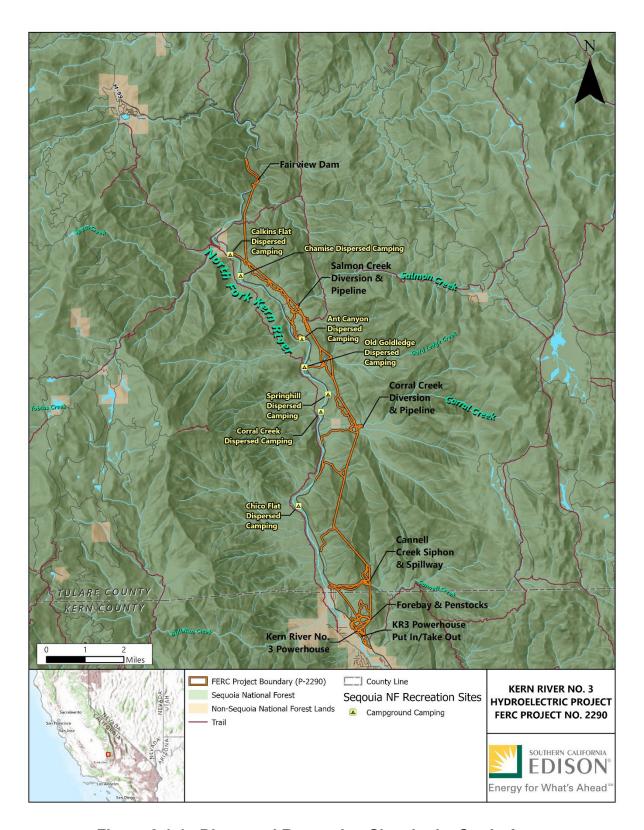


Figure 3.1-1. Dispersed Recreation Sites in the Study Area.

3.2. FACILITY INVENTORY AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The study area and study sites focused on one SCE-owned FERC-approved and 14 non-FERC USFS-operated formal, developed campgrounds, day-use areas, trailheads, and river access points along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach. The locations are listed below and shown in Figure 3.2-1.

- Willow Point Whitewater Take-out (non-Project facility)
- Roads End Whitewater Put-in (non-Project facility)
- Packsaddle Trail Trailhead (non-Project facility)
- Fairview Campground (non-Project facility)
- Rincon Trail Trailhead (non-Project facility)
- Goldledge Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out (non-Project facility)
- Corral Creek Picnic Site and Whitewater Take-out (non-Project facility)
- Hospital Flat Campground (non-Project facility)
- Thunderbird Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out (non-Project facility)
- Camp 3 Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out (non-Project facility)
- Halfway Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out (non-Project facility)
- Headquarters Campground (non-Project facility)
- Riverkern Beach Picnic Site (non-Project facility)
- KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take out (Project facility)
- Whiskey Flat Trailhead (non-Project facility)

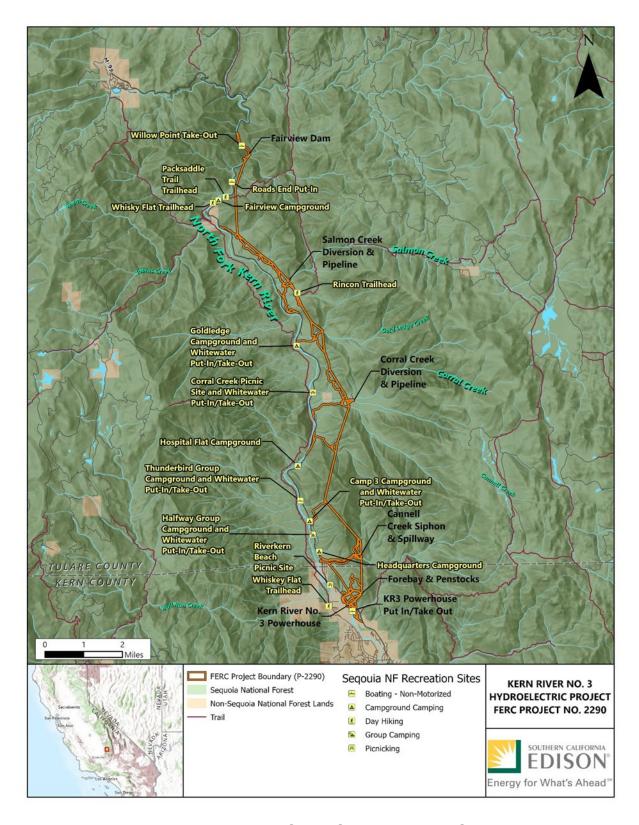


Figure 3.2-1. Recreation Study Sites within the Study Area.

4.0 METHODS

Field surveys and data collection conducted at public recreation sites located within the FERC Project Boundary and along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach followed the methods described in SCE's RSP Package (SCE, 2022). Two field staff conducted the recreation facility inventory from October 10 through October 13, 2022, at each recreation site using tablets and an Esri ArcGIS Survey123 form.

Data collected from the field surveys was analyzed for quality assurance, and results are discussed below in Section 5.0, Data Summary. In accordance with the RSP, the analysis provided in this memorandum is representative of the conditions observed at the recreation facilities during the survey period and may not reflect changes due to use or weather since that time.

Study Plan Variances

Study implementation followed the methods described in SCE's RSP (SCE, 2022), and approved by FERC in their SPD (FERC, 2022), with no variances.

4.1. Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Review

Consistent with the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the USFS developed an amended forest plan and released the final forest plan in May 2023 (USFS, 2023), which was finalized since the filing of the Project Pre-Application Document in 2021 (SCE, 2021). The final document was reviewed, and key findings related to this study are summarized in Section 5.0, Data Summary.

4.2. DISPERSED RECREATION SITE ASSESSMENT

A Dispersed Recreation Site Assessment was conducted at the seven dispersed (informal) Sequoia National Forest (SQF) recreation sites identified in Section 3.1, Dispersed Recreation Site Assessment.

Information collected during field surveys included campsite locations, parking areas, and trails. Dispersed use was documented using data sheets and photographs integrated into a geographic information system (GIS) database with relevant attributes (e.g., spatial location, number of fire rings, and length of roads or trails).

Additional qualitative information was also collected, including potential issues, possible accommodations, or future recreation opportunities at the sites.

4.3. FACILITY INVENTORY AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT

A facility inventory and condition assessment were performed at the 15 developed (formal) campgrounds, day-use areas, trailheads, and water access points identified in

Section 3.2, Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment. Generally, the following parameters were recorded:

- General assessment of the condition of facilities;
- Universal accessibility of facilities;
- Public safety measures;
- Signage and wayfinding; and
- Site-specific circulation roads, campsite spurs, and parking areas.

Information collected during field surveys was consistent with the Recreation Site Inventory Form provided to SQF staff on October 3, 2022 (Appendix A). The survey documented the condition of all amenities. Items in need of maintenance, repair, replacement, or similar action were noted according to Table 4.2-1. All inventories were documented with photographs and integrated into a GIS database with relevant attributes.

<u>Table 4.2-1. Facility Condition Rating Table</u>

ID	Category	Description
N	Needs replacement	Facility is non-functional or has broken or missing components
R	Needs repair	Facility has structural damage or is in an obvious state of disrepair
М	Needs maintenance	Facility needs maintenance, such as cleaning or painting
G	Good condition	Facility is functional and well maintained

5.0 DATA SUMMARY

5.1. DISPERSED RECREATION SITE ASSESSMENT

Dispersed Recreation Site Assessment data includes information on dispersed campsites and parking areas with minimal amenities. Available data is summarized below for all amenities. A brief description of each site is provided below; figures and photographs of each site are provided in Appendix B.

All of the dispersed recreation sites are non-KR3 Project facilities located along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach. The sites are all owned and operated by the USFS but are unstaffed. No fee is required, and all areas are first-come/first-serve.

As noted below, all sites have access to parking and trails. Only some sites have restroom facilities available. Possible accommodations or future recreation opportunities could include the addition of restroom facilities at those sites that currently do not have facilities. Additionally, upgrading restroom facilities currently on-site to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible facilities could be a future recreation opportunity.

5.1.1. CALKINS FLAT DISPERSED CAMPING.

Calkins Flat Dispersed Camping is open year-round and is accessible via Kern River Highway, which is a two-lane paved road that is also known as Mountain Road 99. There are 15 fire rings on-site, as well as two informational signs outlining site rules and safety. This site offers one restroom facility with two unisex toilets and three trash receptacles. A gravel parking area provides parking for approximately 75 vehicles. There are 4,310 feet of trails identified within the site.

5.1.2. CHAMISE FLAT DISPERSED CAMPING

Chamise Flat Dispersed Camping is open year-round and accessible via Kern River Highway. There are 27 fire rings on-site. A gravel parking area provides parking for approximately 42 vehicles. There are 6,488 feet of trails within the site.

5.1.3. ANT CANYON DISPERSED CAMPING

Ant Canyon Dispersed Camping is open year-round and accessible via Kern River Highway. There are 10 fire rings, four trash receptacles, two informational signs, and one unisex portable restroom on-site. A gravel parking area provides parking for approximately 28 vehicles. There are 3,327 feet of trails within the site.

5.1.4. OLD GOLDLEDGE DISPERSED CAMPING

Old Goldledge Dispersed Camping is open year-round and accessible via Kern River Highway. There are six fire rings and one informational sign outlining site rules and safety on-site. A gravel parking area provides parking for approximately 10 vehicles. There are 1.288 feet of trails identified within the site.

5.1.5. Spring Hill Dispersed Camping

Spring Hill Dispersed Camping is open year-round and accessible via two access points—one to the north and one to the south—from Kern River Highway. There are 42 fire rings identified on-site. A gravel parking area provides parking for approximately 100 vehicles. There are 5,359 feet of trails within the site.

5.1.6. CORRAL CREEK DISPERSED CAMPING

Corral Creek Dispersed Camping is open year-round and accessible via Kern River Highway. There are nine fire rings on-site. A gravel parking area provides parking for approximately 42 vehicles. There are 2,272 feet of trails within the site.

5.1.7. CHICO FLAT DISPERSED CAMPING

Chico Flat Dispersed Camping is open year-round and accessible via Ker River Highway. There are 25 fire rings on-site. A gravel parking area provides parking for approximately 50 vehicles. There are 8,127 feet of trails within the site.

5.2. FACILITIES INVENTORY AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The Recreation Facilities Inventory and Condition Assessment data includes information focused on developed (formal) campgrounds, day-use areas, trailheads, and river access points with expanded amenities. An assessment of the condition of each site at the time of observation is provided below. Available data is summarized below for all amenities. A brief description of each site is provided below; photographs of each site are provided in Appendix C.

5.2.1. WILLOW POINT WHITEWATER TAKE-OUT

Willow Point Whitewater Take-out is a day-use area open year-round, from sunrise to sunset. The site is accessible via Kern River Highway. The USFS owns and maintains the site, but it is unstaffed. The site is not a KR3 Project facility but is within the FERC KR3 Project Boundary along the North Fork Kern River. No fee is required at the site, primarily consisting of whitewater access and an unpaved parking area. Visitors have access to a two-lane carry-in boat launch and one trash receptacle. There is parking for approximately 18 vehicles along the shoulder of Kern River Highway, which was in good condition during the time of the assessment. The one informational kiosk on-site was observed to be in good condition, providing boating safety information in both English and Spanish. Overall, the site is in good condition and is functioning as intended. There is evidence of vegetation impacts and/or erosion due to extended trail use.

5.2.2. Roads End Whitewater Put-in

Roads End Whitewater Put-in is a day-use area open year-round, from sunrise to sunset. The site is accessible via Kern River Highway. The USFS owns and operates the site, which is unstaffed. The site is not a KR3 Project facility but falls along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach. The site primarily consists of whitewater access, a day-use area, and multiple parking areas. Visitors can access a boating prep area, restrooms, and picnic areas. Restrooms include two ADA compliant unisex vault toilets. A gravel area provides parking for approximately 50 vehicles. The one informational kiosk identified on-site provides USFS and boating safety information in both English and Spanish and was observed in good condition. Four informational signs are present on-site. Restrooms are suitable for persons with disabilities to participate in recreation opportunities. Overall, the site is in adequate condition and is functioning as intended. There is evidence of vegetation impacts and/or erosion due to extended trail and boat launch use.

5.2.3. PACKSADDLE TRAIL TRAILHEAD

Packsaddle Trail Trailhead provides parking on the west side of Kern River Highway and access to the Packsaddle Trail on the east side of Kern River Highway. The USFS owns and operates the site, and no fee is required. The site is not a KR3 Project facility but falls along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach. A gravel parking area provides parking for approximately 18 vehicles, which needs repair due to broken pavement at the entrance from Kern River Highway and potholes. There is one informational kiosk identified in good

condition. One informational sign is present on-site and requires maintenance. Overall, the site is in poor condition but functioning as intended.

5.2.4. FAIRVIEW CAMPGROUND

Fairview Campground is a seasonal campground open April through October. The site is accessible via Kern River Highway. The gravel campground road needs repair. The USFS owns and operates the site via a concessionaire2, and a campground host staffs it throughout the season. A \$32 fee is required to camp at this site, with an \$8 extra vehicle fee applied per vehicle over one per site. The camparound is not a KR3 Project facility but falls along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach. The campground includes 54 standard campsites, 2 of which are ADA accessible, and one group site. All sites include a picnic table, a firepit ring, and one parking space. Eight of the picnic tables are in poor condition and require maintenance. Visitors have access to restrooms, potable water, and trash receptacles. The site has three restroom facilities, providing six ADA-compliant vault toilets for men and six ADA-compliant vault toilets for women. There is additional parking for approximately seven vehicles within a paved lot at the entrance to the site, which needs repair. The one informational kiosk on-site is in good condition, providing fee information and regulations. Two informational signs are present on-site, providing fee information and site rules. Restrooms, picnic tables, firepit rings, grills, and trash receptacles are suitable for persons with disabilities to participate in recreation opportunities. Overall, the site is in adequate condition and is functioning as intended. There is some evidence of vegetation impacts due to extended footpath use.

5.2.5. RINCON TRAIL TRAILHEAD

Rincon Trail Trailhead provides access to the Rincon Trail via a dirt road off from Kern River Highway. The dirt access road is approximately 0.6 mile north of the Ant Canyon Dispersed Camping site on the east side of Kern River Highway. The USFS owns and operates the site, and no fee is required. There are approximately four parking spaces available along the gravel road. Overall, the site is in good condition and functioning as intended.

5.2.6. GOLDLEDGE CAMPGROUND AND WHITEWATER PUT-IN/TAKE-OUT

Goldledge Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out is a campground and day-use area. The site is accessible via Kern River Highway. The campground and whitewater put-in/take-out is not a KR3 Project facility but falls along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach. The USFS owns and operates the site, which is seasonally staffed by a campground host. A \$32 fee is required to camp per site, plus an additional \$2 per site per night on holidays. The campground consists of 35 standard campsites, none of which are ADA-accessible. All sites include a picnic table, firepit ring, and a single parking space. Five of the picnic tables are in poor condition and require maintenance. Visitors additionally have access to restrooms, potable water, recycling bins, and trash receptacles. Sanitation facilities include eight portable restrooms: four for men and four

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² The USFS contracts with a maintenance company (concessionaire) to maintain and operate the developed campgrounds along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach.

for women. There is one informational kiosk in good condition. There is parking for dayuse activities across Kern River Highway for approximately 18 vehicles within a paved lot in adequate condition. Overall, the site is in adequate condition and functioning as intended. There is no evidence of vegetation impacts or erosion observed.

5.2.7. CORRAL CREEK PICNIC SITE AND WHITEWATER TAKE-OUT

Corral Creek Picnic Site and Whitewater Take-out is a day-use area open year-round, from sunrise to sunset. The USFS owns and operates the site, which is unstaffed. The site primarily consists of whitewater access and a picnic area. The picnic area and whitewater put-in/take-out are not KR3 Project facilities but fall along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach. Visitors have access to one picnic table, a two-lane carry-in boat launch, and one trash receptacle. The picnic table is in poor condition and requires maintenance. The one informational kiosk is on-site in good condition, providing safety and site information. Five informational signs are present on-site, providing site information and rules. There is parking for approximately eight vehicles in the parking area on the opposite side of Kern River Highway. Overall, the site is in adequate condition and functioning as intended.

5.2.8. HOSPITAL FLAT CAMPGROUND

Hospital Flat Campground is a campground and day-use area. The USFS owns and operates the site via a concessionaire, which is staffed by a campground host year-round. The site is accessible via Kern River Highway and provides camping facilities and water access. The campground consists of 39 standard campsites, two of which are ADA-accessible. All sites include a picnic table, a firepit ring, and a parking space for one vehicle. Nineteen of the picnic tables and four of the firepit rings are in poor condition and require maintenance or repair. Visitors additionally have access to restrooms, recycling, and trash receptacles. Restroom facilities include 12 vault toilets: 6 for men and 6 for women. The one informational kiosk on-site is in good condition, and three informational signs are present on-site. There is parking for approximately nine vehicles within the paved lot for day users of the site, which is in adequate condition. One parking spot is ADA-accessible. Overall, the site is in adequate condition and functioning as intended. There is no evidence of vegetation impacts or erosion.

5.2.9. THUNDERBIRD GROUP CAMPGROUND AND WHITEWATER PUT-IN/TAKE-OUT

Thunderbird Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out is a group campground with whitewater access. The Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out is not a KR3 Project facility but falls along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach. The site is accessible via Kern River Highway. The USFS owns and operates the site, which is staffed seasonally by park rangers. The campground consists of three group campsites. Each group site provides access to multiple parking spots, a picnic shelter with picnic tables, and a firepit ring. Visitors also have access to trash receptacles and restrooms. Restrooms include two portable unisex toilets, one of which needs repair. The three informational kiosks on-site are in good condition, providing site rules and fishing information. Three additional informational signs providing site information are also

on-site. There is parking for approximately 10 vehicles and one ADA space within the day-use parking area, which is in adequate condition. Overall, the site is in adequate condition and functioning as intended. There is notable evidence of erosion, as well as litter and vandalism.

5.2.10. CAMP 3 CAMPGROUND AND WHITEWATER PUT-IN/TAKE-OUT

Camp 3 Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out are not KR3 Project facilities but fall along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach. The site is accessible via Kern River Highway. The USFS owns and operates the site via a concessionaire, which is staffed seasonally. The campground consists of 55 standard campsites, 1 of which is ADA-accessible. All sites include a single parking spot, picnic table, and firepit ring. One campsite, 20 picnic tables, and five of the firepit rings require maintenance or repair. Visitors have access to restrooms and picnic shelters. This site offers 10 restroom facilities: 4 portable unisex restrooms, 3 vault toilets for men, and 3 vault toilets for women. There are three informational signs observed on-site. There is evidence of vegetation impacts and erosion on-site, as well as compaction, litter, ground disturbance, vegetation removal, and vandalism. The day-use area includes parking for approximately 15 vehicles within a paved lot, which is in adequate condition. Overall, the site is in adequate condition and functioning as intended.

5.2.11. HALFWAY GROUP CAMPGROUND AND WHITEWATER PUT-IN/TAKE-OUT

Halfway Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out is a group campground with a trail to whitewater access. The site is accessible via Kern River Highway. The USFS owns and operates the site, which requires a fee of \$48 to \$200, depending on the season and the site. The campground and whitewater put-in/take-out are not KR3 Project facilities but fall along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach. The campground consists of four group campsites; each has access to a parking area, picnic tables, and a firepit ring. Visitors have access to restrooms, picnic shelters with tables, and trash receptacles. This site offers three unisex portable toilets. There is one informational kiosk and seven informational signs on-site, providing fee information and site rules. There is no evidence of vegetation impacts or erosion; however, evidence of vandalism, ground disturbance, litter, and compaction is present. There is parking for approximately 20 vehicles within the day-use parking area, which is in adequate condition. Overall, the site is in adequate condition and functioning as intended.

5.2.12. HEADQUARTERS CAMPGROUND

Headquarters Campground is accessible via Kern River Highway. The site is open year-round and is owned and operated by the USFS via a concessionaire. The site is staffed year-round by a campground host. The campground consists of 43 standard campsites, 1 of which is ADA-accessible. Each site includes a picnic table, firepit ring, and parking for one vehicle. Twenty-one of the picnic tables and two of the firepit rings require maintenance, replacement, or repair. Visitors additionally have access to a parking area, restrooms, potable water, bear-proof boxes, two grills, and a trash receptacle. This site offers 11 restroom facilities: 5 vault toilets for men, 5 vault toilets for women, and 1 unisex

vault toilet. Two of the men's toilets require maintenance. There are two informational kiosks identified in good condition. Additionally, seven informational signs are present onsite, one of which needs maintenance. There is evidence of vegetation impacts, erosion, tree damage, compaction, ground disturbance, vegetation removal, and vandalism onsite. Overall, the site is in adequate condition and functioning as intended.

5.2.13. RIVERKERN BEACH PICNIC SITE

Riverkern Beach Picnic Site is a day-use area open from sunrise to sunset, year-round. The site is accessible via Sierra Way, which is a two-lane paved road. The USFS owns and operates the site, but it is unstaffed. No fee is required at the site, which primarily consists of water access and a designated unpaved parking area. Visitors have access to a restroom and trash receptacles. The restroom includes two ADA-compliant unisex vault toilets. A gravel parking lot provides parking for approximately 15 vehicles in good condition. There is additional parking for approximately 42 vehicles along the shoulder of Sierra Way. There is one informational kiosk on-site in good condition, providing site and safety information. Three informational signs on-site are in good condition. Overall, the site is in adequate condition and functioning as intended. There is evidence of on-site vegetation impacts, erosion, litter, and vandalism.

5.2.14. KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take Out

KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out is a whitewater access area reachable via a two-lane paved road that branches off Sierra Way. SCE owns and operates the KR3 Project facility, which is unstaffed year-round. Visitors have access to a carry-in boat launch and loading area and trash receptacles. The parking area includes space for approximately 8 vehicles in the paved area and 12 vehicles in the gravel parking area, all in good condition. Two informational signs are present on-site, one requiring maintenance. A FERC Part 8 sign, which includes KR3 Project information, ownership, and operating hours, is also present on-site as a license requirement, given this site is a FERC-approved KR3 Project facility. There is some evidence of vegetation impacts or erosion on-site, as well as litter, compaction, ground disturbance, and vandalism. Overall, the site is in adequate condition and functioning as intended.

5.2.15. WHISKEY FLAT TRAIL ACCESS

Whiskey Flat Trail is connected by two access areas: one to the north and one to the south. The north trail access site is accessible via Kern River Highway, and the south trail access site is accessible via a one-lane gravel road. The USFS owns and operates both the north and south trail access sites, and no fee is required. Both the north and south access sites are open year-round. There is parking for approximately 12 vehicles within the gravel parking area at the north trail access site, which is in good condition. There is parking for approximately five vehicles within the gravel parking area at the south trail access site, which is in good condition. One informational sign is at the Whiskey Flat Trail North Access site, and two are at the Whiskey Flat Trail South Access site. There is some

evidence of vegetation impacts and litter due to extended trail use. Overall, the access sites are in adequate condition and functioning as intended.

5.3. SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Land Management Plan (USFS, 2023) was developed to provide direction and adaptive management for the resources in the KR3 Project Area.³ The following forest-wide (REC-FW) desired conditions (DC), objectives (OBJ), goals (GOAL), and guidelines (GDL) were found to be relevant to this study:

- Sites provide a variety of nature-based recreation opportunities year-round (REC-FW-DC 01, 03, 12).
- Sites accommodate diverse cultures (REC-FW-DC 02).
- Sites provide recreation opportunities with minimal impacts on sensitive environments (REC-FW-DC 05).
- Trail systems provide recreational opportunities compatible with other resources (REC-FW-DC 07, 13).
- Dispersed sites exist in areas outside of high visitation, which does not adversely impact resources (REC-FW-DC 09).
- Infrastructure meets the minimum needs of potential uses and mimics the area's natural landscape (REC-FW-GDL 02).

Additionally, the sites were found to align with the following General Recreation Area (MAGRA) desired conditions (DC), objectives (OBJ), goals (GOAL), and guidelines (GDL):

- Sites have limited amenities and minor developments (MA-GRA-DC 01).
- Sites provide scenic integrity, including a mosaic of vegetation, while retaining the natural character of landscapes (MA-GRA-DC 02, 07).
- Recreation opportunities are compatible with other resources (MA-GRA-DC 03).
- Roads and trails at the sites support recreation activities (MA-GRA-DC 08).
- Recreation sites provide opportunities for those seeking solitude, as well as high-use areas (MA-GRA-DC 09).

-

³ Objectives and goals of the *Land Management Plan for the Sequoia National Forest* (USFS, 2023) are part of the 15-year plan that was released in 2023.

6.0 STUDY-SPECIFIC CONSULTATION

Data forms were transmitted to the SQF for review via email on October 3, 2022, prior to study implementation.

7.0 OUTSTANDING STUDY PLAN ELEMENTS

All REC-3 Study Plan elements have been completed as outlined in SCE's RSP (SCE, 2022) and FERC's SPD (FERC, 2022). No further work is currently planned for this study.

8.0 REFERENCES

- FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). 2022. Study Plan Determination for the Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project. Accession No. 20221012-3024. October 12.
- SCE (Southern California Edison). 2021. Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2290) Pre-Application Document. Accessed: July 2023. Retrieved from https://www.sce.com/sites/default/files/inline-files/KR3 PAD Volume I Public.pdf
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- USFS (U.S. Forest Service). 2023. Land Management Plan for the Sequoia National Forest: Fresno, Kern, and Tulare Counties, California. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, Sequoia National Forest. R5-MB-330A. Accessed: August 25, 2023. Retrieved from: https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=3375.

APPENDIX A RECREATION SITE INVENTORY FORM

KERN RIVER NO. 3 PROJECT RECREATION SITE INVENTORY FORM

Observed by:			Date/Time:				
Site Name:			G	PS Coordina	tes:		
Facility Type: Campground Trailhead		☐ Day Use An☐ Boat Laund			nic Area ormal Site		
Road Access:	Condition Desc		; M; G]_				
☐ Paved access☐ Unpaved access	# lanes	-				_	
Parking Lots:	Condition Desc	ription:					
Type Universal Access Spa		#	Estimated Grave		Delineation	urba F	
Regular Spaces Vehicle & Trailer Sp				Pair	nted Conted Conted Co	urbs 📮	Signage
Operations: ☐ Staffed ☐ U1 ☐ Fee: (Site \$	nstaffed ; Parking \$	_)	☐ Seasonal (F	rom	_To_)
Operating Hours Project Facility:			Owner/Manager_ Within FERC Pro	ject boundar	y?		

Day Use Site Amenities (total # of all amenities per site; provide additional specifications on next page):					
#	Type Condi	ition (N-replace, R-repair	M-maintain G-good)	Universal Access	
	Picnic Shelter	ttion (14 replace, 14 repair	, III mamami, o goody	Sinversar Freeds	
	Overlook				
	Picnic Tables				
	Pedestrian Trail				
	Boating Prep Area				
	Trash Receptacles	<u>-</u>			
	_ Grills				
	_ Fishing Pier/Platforn	n			
	_ Firepit/ring				
	Fishing Prep Area				
	_ Safety Signage				
	Restrooms				
	_ Information Kiosk				
	_ Informational Signag	ge			
-	Benches				
	_ Dumping Station Potable Water				
	Playground				
Other	(specify)				
o uno	(SP • • • · ·)				
Boat	Launch Facilities:	Condition Description	:		
Пн	ard surface	nproved (informal)	☐ Gravel	☐ Carry In	
\square Ur	niversal Access	☐ Boat P	rep Area # of La	anes	
			1		
Cour	tesy/Fishing Docks:	Condition Description	:		
□с	ourtesy Dock	☐ Fishing Dock	Dimensions:	☐ Universal Access	
_	ourtesy Dock	☐ Fishing Dock			
	ourtesy Dock	in Fishing Dock	Dimensions.	Universal Access	
Trail	s (within the recreati	on area): Condition Desc	cription:		
Type:		Length (ft):	Condition:	_ Universal Access	
Type:		Length (ft):	Condition:	☐ Universal Access	
Type:		Length (ft):	Condition:	☐ Universal Access	

Interpretive/Site 1	Information: Con	dition Description	:		
Interpretive/Site Information: Condition Description: No. of Displays Boating Safety □ Invasive Species □ Fishing Regulations □ Fish Type □ Regional Events □ Other (specify)					
Signage: Condition	on Description:				
	Directional				
Sanitation Facility	ies: Conditi	on Description:			
Unisex Women Men *UA = Universal A	# Flush (# U ((Access	UA*) # Por	table (# ADA) () ()	Showers	(#UA) () ()
Campground/Car	mpsite: Condition	on Description:			
	m	TD 4 D 1 141	G G*4	0 /0 1:	DVCC
# of sites	Tent-improved	Tent-Primitive	Group Sites	Camps/Cabins	RV Sites
On site parking					
Waterfront					
Universal					
Access					
			1	1	l
Observed Vegetation and Erosion Impacts: Cut trees for fires Trampled vegetation Mowed areas Trees damaged by people Trees damaged by environment Areas of noticeable erosion Description of Observations/Evidence of Vegetation Impacts:					
Description of Observations/Evidence of Erosion:					
Evidence of use at site: (C) Compaction, (E) Erosion, (G) Garbage, (GD) Ground disturbance, (HW) Human waste, (UI) Unauthorized improvements, (V) Vandalism, (VR) Vegetation removal, (O) Other (Specify)					
Evidence of Overcrowding: (A) Anecdotal information, (FA) facility/amenity @ capacity, (I) improper parking, (S) Signage, (SD) Site degradation, (U) Unauthorized sites, (W) Waiting lines, (O) Other (Specify)					

Notes (including general condition, any restrictions/alerts, such as boating use, invasive species, etc.):					
		_			
		_			
Photo number from	to				

Sketch of Site and Facilities:		

KERN RIVER NO. 3 PROJECT DATA DICTIONARY

Conditional Ratings

N: Needs replacement-is non-functional or has broken or missing components

R: Needs repair-has structural damage or is in an obvious state of disrepair

M: Needs maintenance- is in need of attention (i.e. cleaning or painting is needed)

G: Good condition-is functional and well maintained

Anecdotal Information:

observations made by field staff (i.e. overflowing trash cans, tire tracks outside of delineated parking areas and access roads)

Facility Type:

The primary use of the site

Road Access:

The road in which is used to access/enter the site.

Parking Lot:

The designated or observed area where vehicles park to access the facility.

Trash receptacles:

Include all vessels designed to collect trash (i.e. trash cans, dumpsters)

Informational Kiosk:

A display structure with multiple informational signs

APPENDIX B DISPERSED RECREATION SITE FIGURES AND PHOTOS

Note: All photographs were taken by Kleinschmidt during the field surveys and data collection conducted in October 2022, unless otherwise noted.

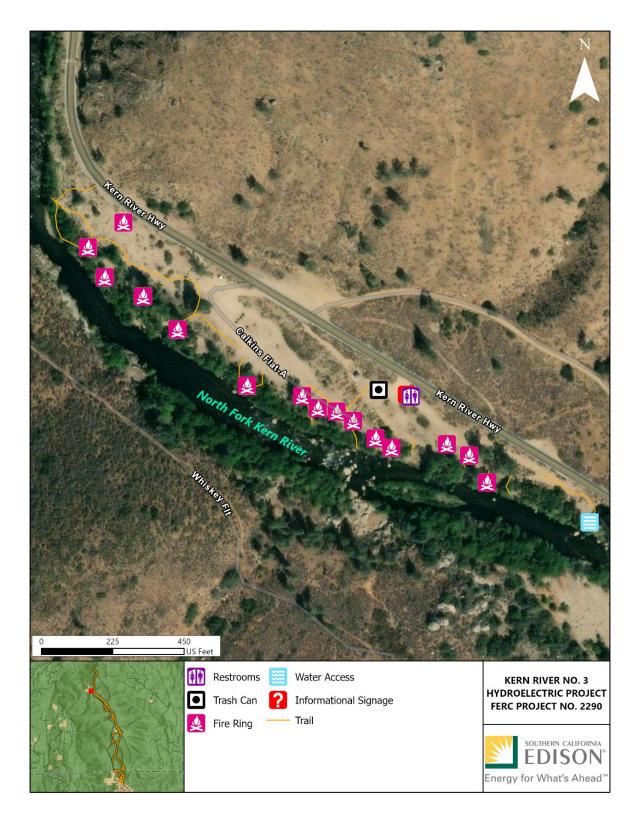


Figure B-1. Calkins Flat Dispersed Camping.



Photo B-1. Calkins Flat Dispersed Camping



Photo B-2. Calkins Flat Dispersed Camping Informational Signage



Photo B-3. Calkins Flat Dispersed Camping Water Access Area

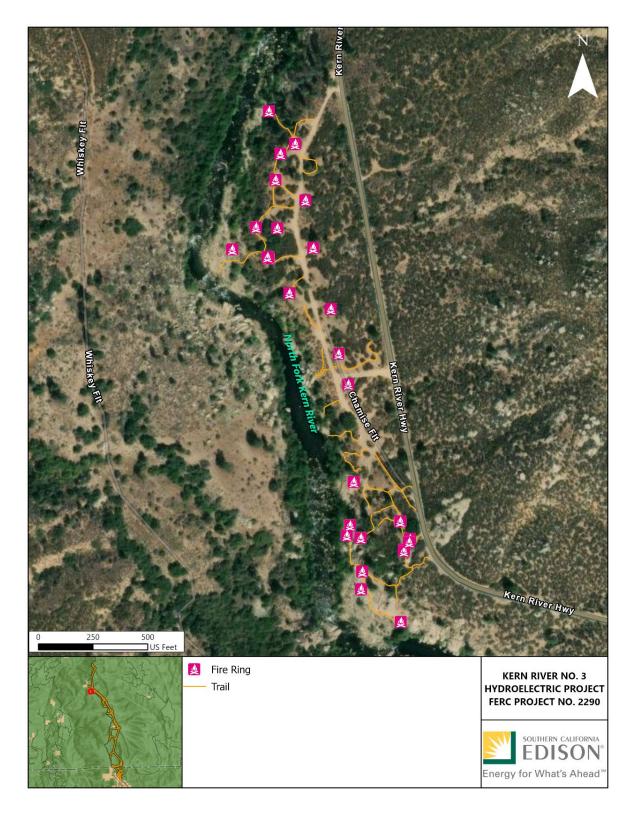


Figure B-2. Chamise Flat Dispersed Camping.



Photo B-4. Chamise Flat Dispersed Camping



Photo B-5. Chamise Flat Dispersed Camping Firepit



Photo B-6. Chamise Flat Dispersed Camping Boundary

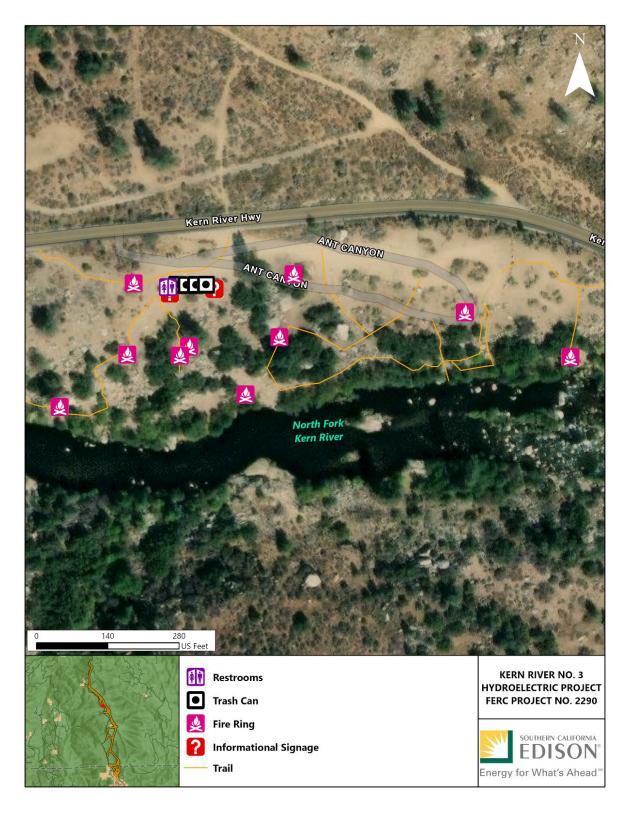


Figure B-3. Ant Canyon Dispersed Camping.



Photo B-7. Ant Canyon Dispersed Camping



Photo B-8. Ant Canyon Dispersed Camping Trash Facilities

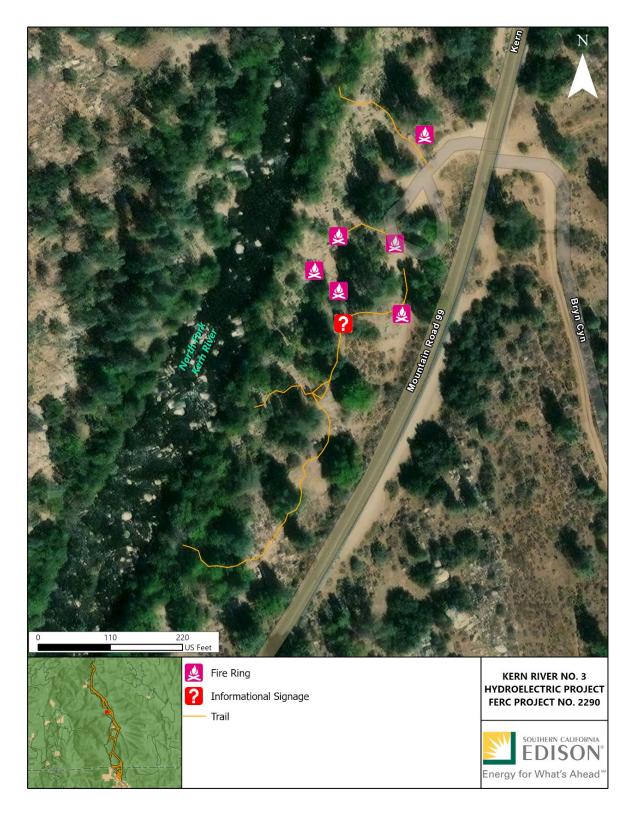


Figure B-4. Old Goldledge Dispersed Camping.



Photo B-9. Old Goldledge Dispersed Camping Use



Photo B-10. Old Goldledge Dispersed Camping Boundary

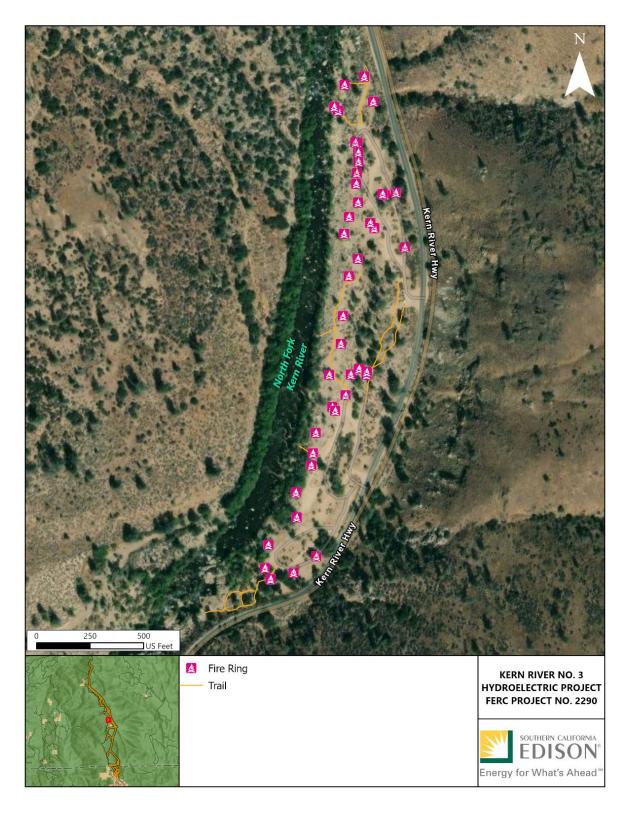


Figure B-5. Spring Hill Dispersed Camping.



Photo B-11. Spring Hill Dispersed Camping Boundary Marker



Photo B-12. Spring Hill Dispersed Camping Firepit

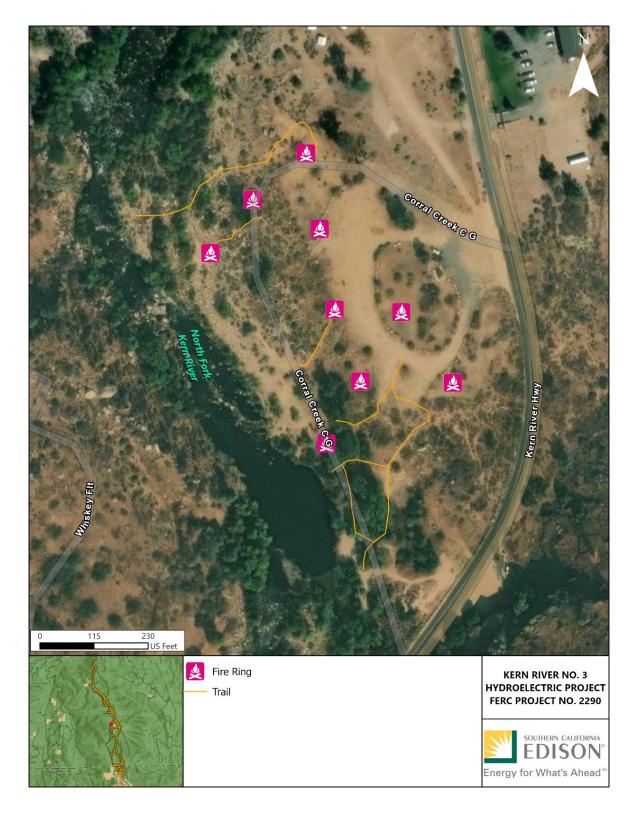


Figure B-6. Corral Creek Dispersed Camping.



Photo B-13. Corral Creek Dispersed Camping Firepit

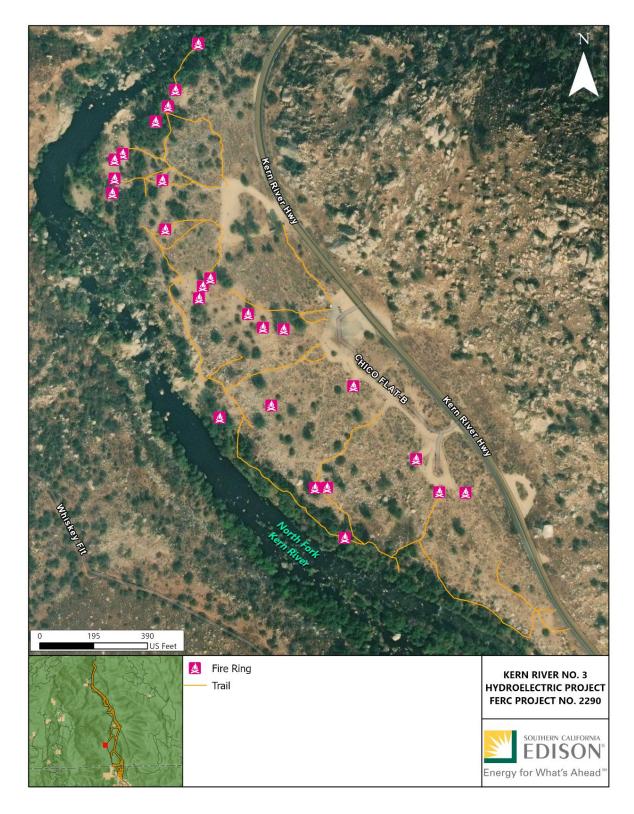


Figure B-7. Chico Flat Dispersed Camping.



Photo B-14. Chico Flat Dispersed Camping Boundary Marker



Photo B-15. Chico Flat Dispersed Camping Firepit

APPENDIX C FACILITIES INVENTORY AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT SITE FIGURES AND PHOTOS

Note: All photographs were taken by Kleinschmidt during the field surveys and data collection conducted in October 2022, unless otherwise noted.

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Figure C-1. Willow Point Whitewater Take-out.

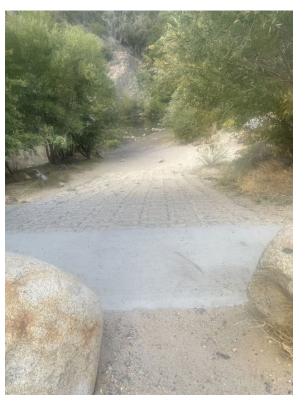


Photo C-1. Willow Whitewater Take-out



Photo C-2. Willow Point Water Access



Photo C-3. Willow Point Informational Kiosk

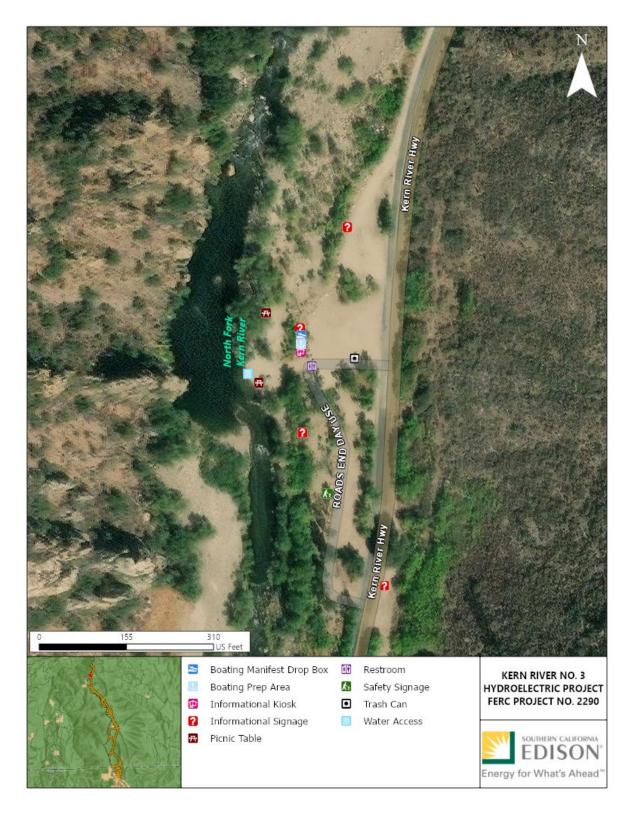


Figure C-2. Roads End Whitewater Put-in.



Photo C-4. Road's End Whitewater Put-in



Photo C-5. Road's End Entrance and Restroom Access

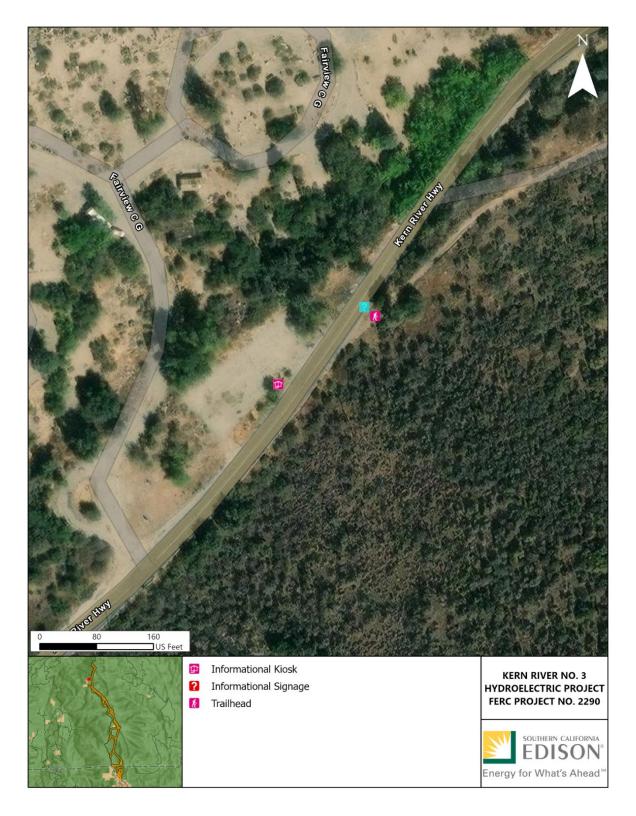


Figure C-3. Packsaddle Trail Trailhead.



Photo C-6. Packsaddle Trail Parking Area

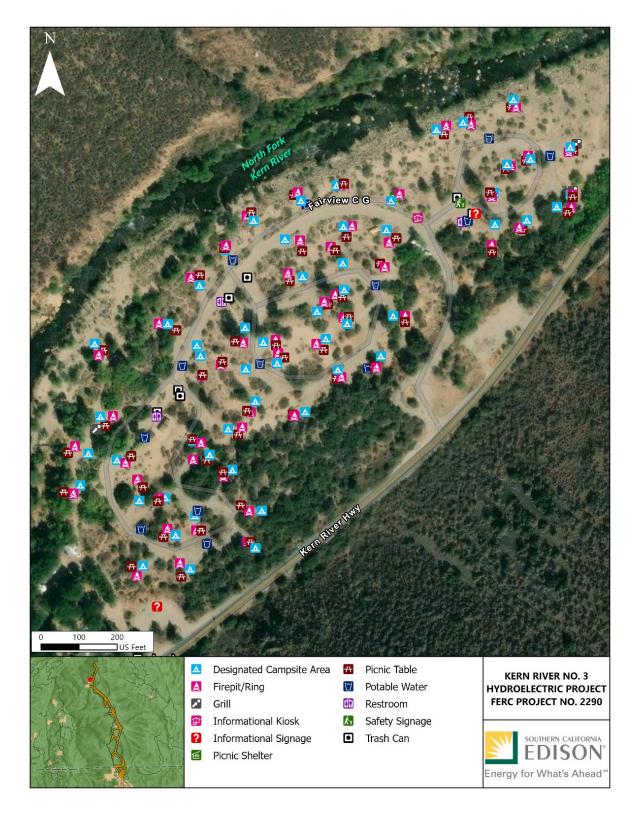


Figure C-4. Fairview Campground.



Photo C-7. Fairview Campground ADA Site



Photo C-8. Restrooms at Fairview Campground

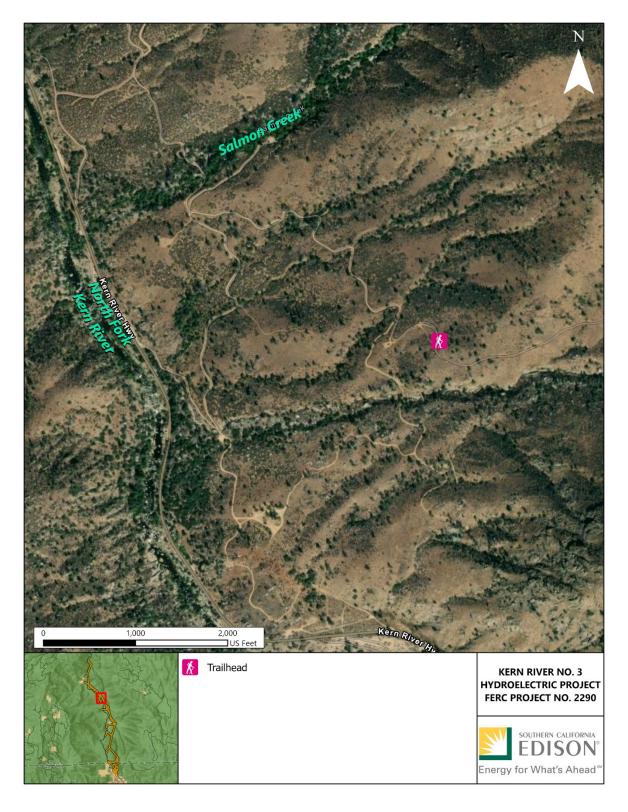


Figure C-5. Rincon Trail Trailhead.



Source: ERM Field team photo taken during field work on September 4, 2023.

Photo C-9. Parking Area at Rincon Trailhead

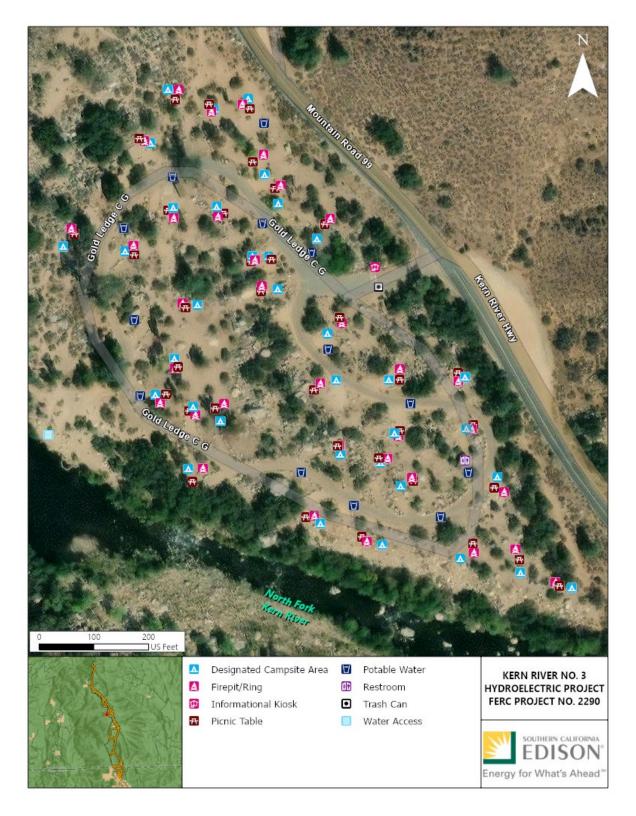


Figure C-6. Goldledge Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out.



Photo C-10. Goldledge Campground Campsite



Photo C-11. Goldledge Whitewater Put-in/Take-out Water Access



Figure C-7. Corral Creek Picnic Site and Whitewater Take-out.



Photo C-12. Corral Creek Picnic Area and Water Access



Photo C-13. Corral Creek Picnic Area

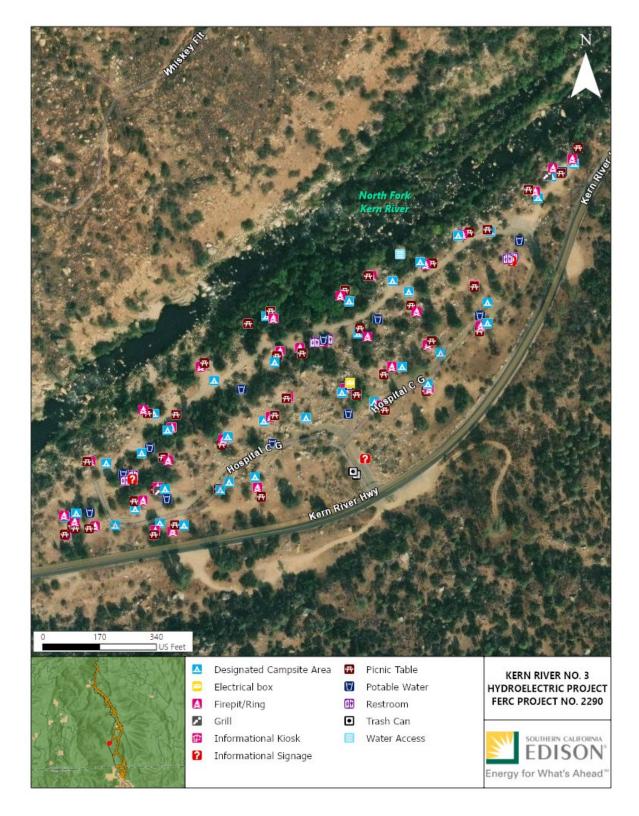


Figure C-8. Hospital Flat Campground.



Photo C-14. Hospital Flat Campground Entrance

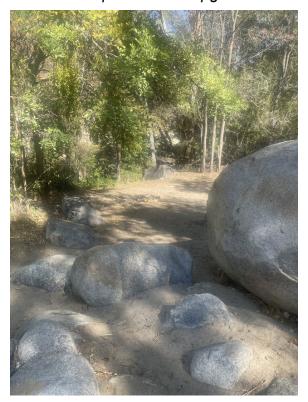


Photo C-15. Hospital Flat Trail to Water Access



Figure C-9. Thunderbird Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out.



Photo C-16. Thunderbird Campground Group Camp Site



Photo C-17. Thunderbird Campground Informational Signage

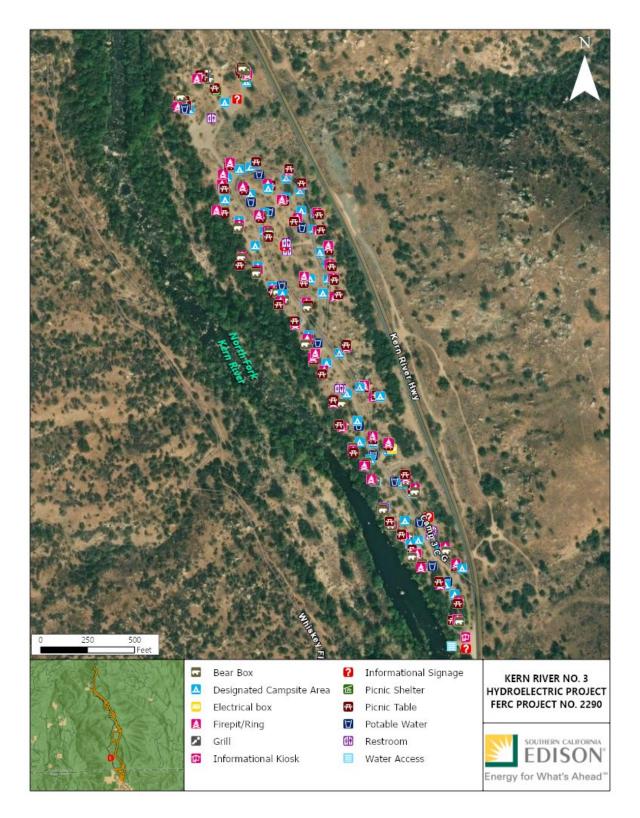


Figure C-10. Camp 3 Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out.



Photo C-18. Camp 3 Campground Entrance

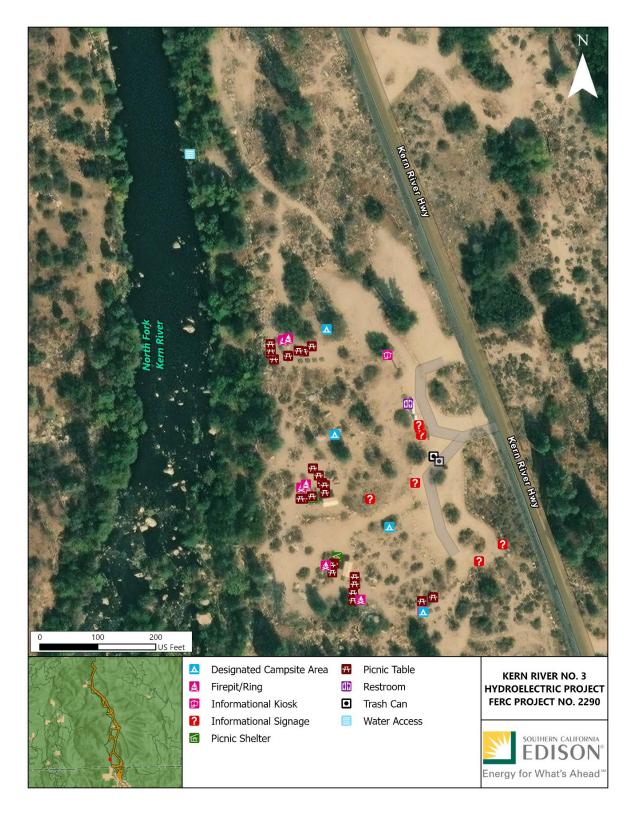


Figure C-11. Halfway Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out.



Photo C-19. Halfway Group Campground Picnic Shelter and Tables



Photo C-20. Halfway Group Campground Typical Campsite

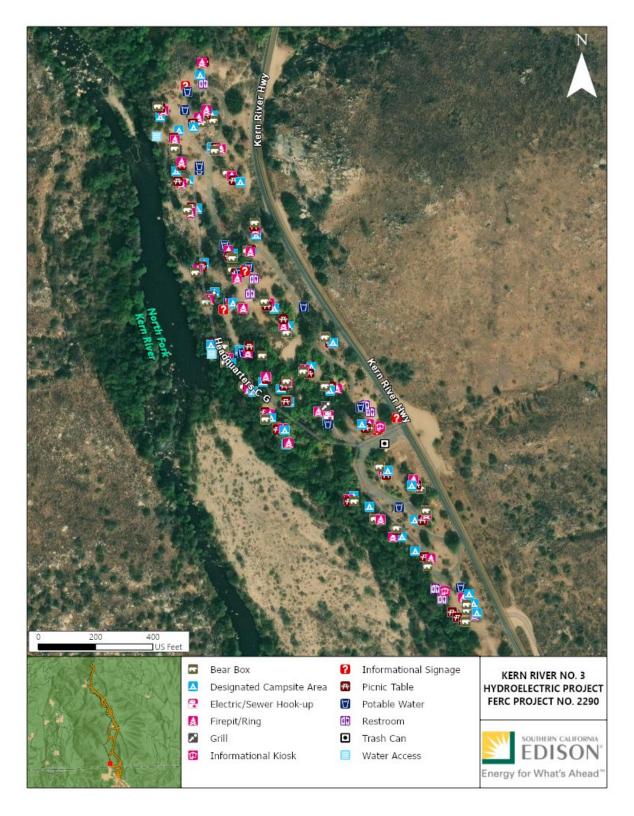


Figure C-12. Headquarters Campground.



Photo C-21. Headquarters Campground Typical Campsite



Photo C-22. Headquarters Campground Water Access

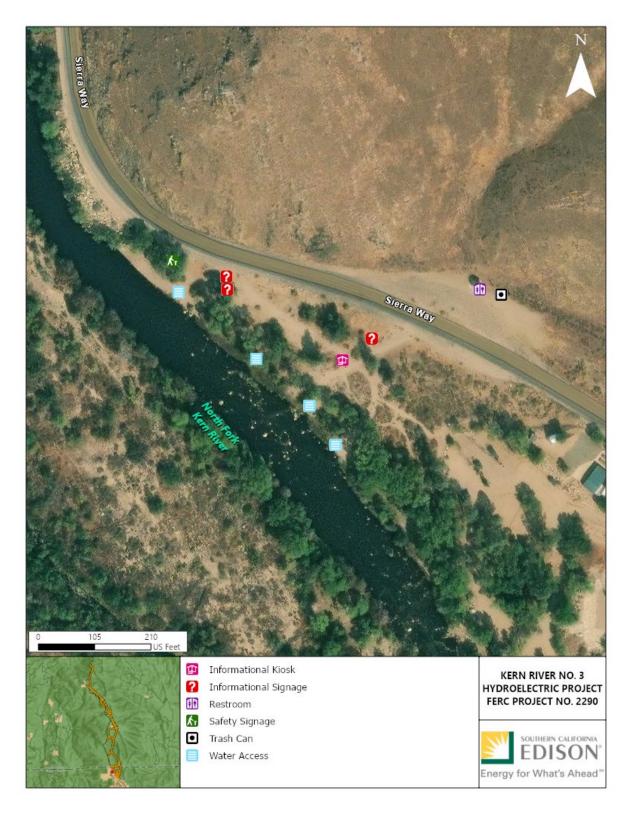


Figure C-13. Riverkern Beach Picnic Site.



Photo C-23. Riverkern Beach Informational Signage

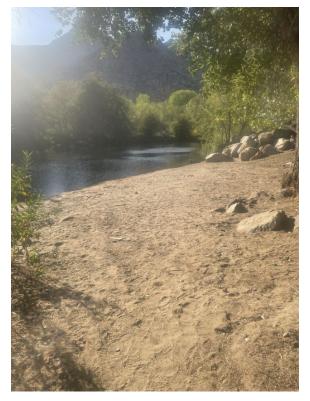


Photo C-24. Riverkern Beach Water Access



Figure C-14. KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out.



Photo C-25. KR3 Whitewater Put-in/Take-out Trail to Water Access



Photo C-26. KR3 Whitewater Put-in/Take-out Informational Signage

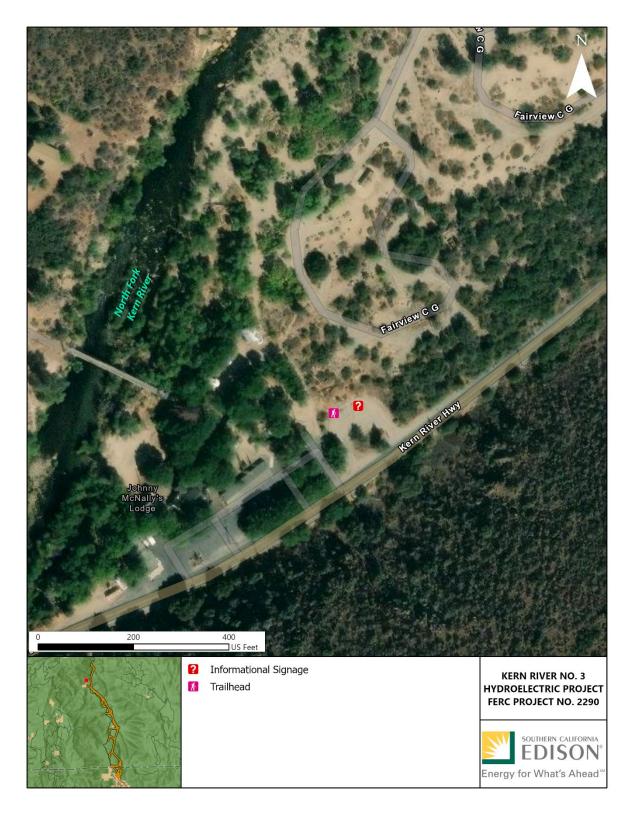


Figure C-15. Whiskey Flat Trail North Access.

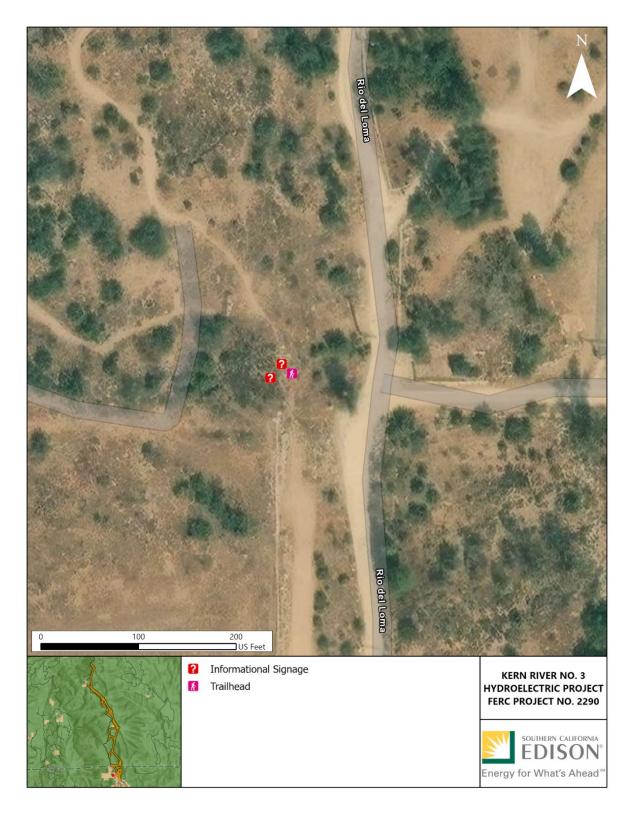


Figure C-16. Whiskey Flat Trail South Access.



Source: Alltrails, LLC. 2017. Photos of Whiskey Flat Trail. Accessed: September 2023. Retrieved from:

https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/california/whiskey-flat-trail--3/photos

Photo C-27. Whiskey Flat Trail