



MEETING SUMMARY*
BISHOP CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
RECREATION TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
FERC PROJECT No. 1394

DATE: March 15, 2021, 2-3 p.m. Conference
LOCATION: Call
Topics: 2021 Alternative REC 1 Study methods

**These meeting notes are documentation of general discussions from the meeting held on the above-noted date. These notes are not a verbatim account of proceedings, are not meeting minutes, and do not represent any final decisions or official documentation for the project or participating agencies.*

1.0 ATTENDEES

Nick Buckmaster, CDFW
Ed Hancock, Water Board
Finlay Anderson, Kleinschmidt
Matt Harper, Kleinschmidt

Kelly Larimer, Kleinschmidt
Shannon Luoma, Kleinschmidt
Matt Woodhall, SCE
Terra Alpaugh, Kearns & West

2.0 COMPILED ACTION ITEMS

- CDFW will scan some book resources they use to inform sampling design and provide to the Relicensing Team.
- Kleinschmidt will:
 - Follow up on survey design directly with CDFW.
 - Revise the Rec 1 memo and circulate for comment.¹

¹ After the meeting, there was an email exchange (3/16 and 3/24) answering outstanding questions and confirming a survey approach. Since all the Recreation TWG members were copied on that exchange, the Team did not circulate a revised Rec 1 memo which would have contained the same information.

3.0 KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Relicensing Team (“the Team”) outlined proposed changes to the REC 1 survey. While the goals of the study remain the same, the Team is proposing some changes to the data collection methodology in order to reduce person-to-person contact; for instance, they will rely on a broader distribution of the current web survey, on-site prompts to access the web survey once out of the forest, or on-site drop boxes for self-administered surveys.

Feedback from TWG members included:

- USFS voiced support for the changes and said they expect people will be responsive as long as information on how to log in and participate is widely distributed. They supported the use of QR codes for easy survey access and suggested that gift certificates could be considered as a means of encouraging participation.
- The Team asked for input on the efficacy of web surveys as a replacement for the creel survey component.
 - USFS noted that self-reporting of creel survey information could differ significantly from reality. In addition, creel survey timing would need to be thought about in the context of when the lakes are stocked in that reporting could be heavily dependent on when the lake has been newly stocked versus when it may be fished out.
 - CDFW noted that less than 10 percent of anglers self-report at in-person reporting points. Most anglers will not have internet access at the fishing location, so they are even less likely to participate in web-based reporting. In addition, the delay between the time of the catch and actual reporting would likely make the data less reliable.
 - The Team suggested having in-person survey takers who stand 10 feet away and ask fishermen the survey questions; this might be feasible given that creel surveys are asking for more limited information than the recreation survey.
 - CDFW offered to circulate a request for a local person to do surveys; there are usually people looking for part-time work.
- USFS thanked the Team for their efforts to adapt under COVID; once the data has been collected, they will evaluate it to see if it is robust enough to inform management discussions.
- CDFW offered to discuss the tradeoffs in statistical sampling approach design for the creel surveys. CDFW will scan some resources they use to inform sampling design.
- CDFW provided the following feedback on creel survey approach via email on Tuesday, March 16:
 - Season: angling use is heavily concentrated between Memorial Day and Labor Day, with peak use appearing to occur on holiday weekends. South Lake and Sabrina are both partially iced over during Fishmas, and we have not documented extensive use on those dates.
 - Would recommend stratifying sampling days as follows:
 - Major holiday weekends (4th of July, Labor Day, Memorial Day)
 - Peak season weekends (excluding Holiday weekends)
 - Peak season weekdays

- Typically, you want to sample 20 to 50% of the days within a strata. For the purposes of your study, I think 20% is fine.

The Team will revise the REC 1 Memo to reflect this discussion and circulate it for TWG comment. They will inform FERC of their planned changes to the survey approach.