



Wayne P. Allen  
Principal Manager  
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*Electronically Filed*

May 28, 2021

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr., Deputy Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
825 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Subject: 2021 Progress Report 2  
Bishop Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1394**

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) hereby files with the FERC its second Progress Report of 2021. SCE continues to implement the approved study plans supporting the relicensing of the Bishop Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project 1394).

SCE will forward the “Acceptance for Filing” e-mail generated by FERC's e-filing service to all contacts on the distribution list either via e-mail or U.S Mail, as appropriate. This filing will also be placed on SCE's Bishop Creek Relicensing Website ([www.sce.com/bishopcreek](http://www.sce.com/bishopcreek)) where it will be available for download, and available for review by appointment at the Bishop Creek Hydro Headquarters Office – 4000 E. Bishop Creek Road, Bishop, CA 93514.

SCE looks forward to continuing to work with FERC and other interested parties on the Bishop Creek relicensing. Should there be any questions or concerns regarding this filing please contact Matthew Woodhall, Senior Regulatory Advisor, by phone at (626) 302-9596 or via e-mail at [matthew.woodhall@sce.com](mailto:matthew.woodhall@sce.com).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Allen".  
106CF18A73D445F...

Wayne Allen  
Principal Manager  
Regulatory Support Services  
Southern California Edison Company



**Wayne P. Allen**  
Principal Manager  
Regulatory Support Services

**Attachments:**

- Progress Report 1 Memorandum
- Recreation Use and Needs Study Consultation

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Docket P-1394-080

**FROM:** Bishop Creek Relicensing Team

**CC:** Technical Work Groups  
FERC Distribution List

**DATE:** May 28, 2021

**RE:** Quarterly Study Progress Report No. 2

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### INTRODUCTION

On November 4, 2019 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved Southern California Edison's (SCE) Technical Study Plan (TSP) for the relicensing of the Bishop Creek Project (FERC No. 1394). As provided for in 18 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 5.11(b)(3), the TSP included provisions for periodic progress reports. These progress reports are to be distributed to the Technical Working Groups (TWG) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on a quarterly basis as required by the Study Plan Determination (SPD).<sup>1</sup> The progress reports are intended to be brief technical updates that will, at a minimum, summarize work completed to date, any deviations from previously described methods, and any unforeseen issues that may warrant further stakeholder consultation. This memorandum serves as the second progress report for the Bishop Creek Project for 2021. The Updated Study Report (USR) will serve as the final quarterly progress report for 2021, which will be filed no later than November 4, 2021.

A virtual ISR meeting was held November 10, 2020 and the meeting summary was filed with FERC on November 23, 2020. One formal comment letter was received during the ISR comment period. The California State Water Resources Control Board filed a letter dated December 18, 2020 in support of the ongoing Bishop Creek water quality study program. No other comments were received.

### PROGRESS REPORT

SCE completed or initiated several resource studies in 2019 as outlined in the revised TSP and SPD. As such, several studies conducted their second study season in 2020 and are now complete. Table 1 provides a summary of the field efforts conducted to date and a schedule for remaining studies and data analysis. Those studies impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are identified in the table below. As discussed in the ISR Meeting, the final technical reports are being drafted and will be submitted in batches to the TWGs for 60-day review concurrent with each progress report. The final technical reports will be filed with FERC as part of the Draft License Application (DLA) package in early 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> Issued by FERC on November 4, 2019.

**TABLE 1 BISHOP CREEK HYDRO RELICENSING PROJECT FIELD STUDY SUMMARY**

STUDY NAME	STATUS	MODIFICATIONS TO METHODOLOGY AND/OR NEEDED CONSULTATION
<b>TERRESTRIAL AND BOTANICAL STUDIES</b>		
TERR 1 – Assessment of Bishop Creek Riparian Community	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report is being drafted to be finalized in 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
TERR 2 – Invasive Plants	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report is being drafted to be finalized in 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
TERR 3 – Assessment of Special Status Plants	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report is being drafted to be finalized in 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
TERR 4 – Wildlife	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report is being drafted to be finalized in 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
<b>AQUATICS AND AQUATIC PROCESSES STUDY PLANS</b>		
AQ 1 – Instream Flow Needs and Assessment	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report is being submitted to the Aquatics TWG for review.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
AQ 2 – Operations Model	The Operations Model has been configured and populated with historical data. The Relicensing Team continues to calibrate the model with SCE Operations.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
AQ 3 – Fish Distribution Baseline Study (Creek)	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report is being submitted to the Aquatics TWG for review.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
AQ 4 – Baseline Fish Distribution Study (Reservoirs)	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report is being submitted to the Aquatics TWG for review.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
AQ 5 – Water Quality	Water Quality sampling is being conducted at Lake Sabrina, South Lake, Intake No. 2 reservoir and locations along Bishop Creek throughout the summer of 2021 as outlined in the revised Water Quality Implementation Plan submitted to FERC in April 2020. An Interim Annual Report was filed with FERC in March 2021.	No additional changes or modifications to methodology.
AQ 6 – Sediment and Geomorphology	Channel and substrate surveys were conducted in September 2019. Tracer rocks were deployed into Bishop Creek in August of 2020. SCE intends to complete this study and retrieve the rocks in the summer of 2021.	<b>Previous Variances:</b> After a review of field conditions at bankfull flow, SCE did not believe the planned use of a bed-load sampler can be safely deployed or effectively implemented via wading, and notes that necessary infrastructure (bridges) for deployment of the sampler is not present for the desired sample reaches. To help resolve the question relating to sediment mobility that cannot be answered by the bedload sampling that is not feasible, SCE proposed to perform a tracer rock study during higher flows to understand when various size substrates are mobilized. SCE discussed the change in methods

STUDY NAME	STATUS	MODIFICATIONS TO METHODOLOGY AND/OR NEEDED CONSULTATION
		with the TWG during review of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> progress report in May 2020 and no concerns were raised.
<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY STUDY PLANS</b>		
REC 1 – Recreation Use and Needs	Off-site recreation use surveys were implemented in 2020. SCE is currently working with stakeholders and the Recreation TWG on implementation of the remaining objectives of the REC 1 study during the 2021 recreation season. However, because of continued health concerns over in-person surveys, considerations for revised methods and/or schedules have discussed with the Recreation TWG.	<p><b>Previous Variances:</b> Due to road construction on the South Lake Road and travel restrictions relating to COVID-19, a revised implementation schedule for the REC 1 study plan was developed in consultation with the USFS which moved the general recreation field surveys to the 2021 recreation season.</p> <p><b>Variance for 2021 implementation:</b> The Recreation TWG considered alternative methods and schedules to address the Recreation Use and Needs Study Objectives, which resulted in a revised approach for obtaining responses from recreational users that reduced potential contact/exposure to COVID-19. A summary memorandum of the revised methods and copies of consultation is included as Attachment 1.</p>
REC 2 – Recreation Facilities Condition and Public Accessibility	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report is being drafted to be finalized in 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
LAND 1 – Project Boundary and Lands	This study is underway and is being informed by the results of numerous surveys. The results of the study and its recommendations will be incorporated into the DLA for review.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
CUL 1 – Cultural Resources	Field surveys were delayed due to wildfires in the project area in the summer of 2020. Delayed studies were conducted in the fall of 2020. Snow in the higher elevations prevented recording of two archaeological sites. Additional architectural surveys and archaeological site evaluations are currently planned for the spring and summer of 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology with the exception of submitting separate archaeological and architectural reports.

STUDY NAME	STATUS	MODIFICATIONS TO METHODOLOGY AND/OR NEEDED CONSULTATION
CUL 2 – Tribal Resources	<p>This study will be implemented in 2021, when conditions warrant safe interview techniques. Work on background studies is continuing, although access to archives is creating some slowdown.</p> <p>SCE has also been conducting additional outreach to Indian Tribes and have added the following to the Project Distribution List for all documents: North Fork Mono Tribe and Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians.</p>	<p>Due to COVID-19, the Relicensing Team has been unable to schedule interviews with tribes and conduct outreach to tribal councils. Background research has been initiated and no changes to methodology are expected. SCE is anticipating that not all information from Tribal interviews will be available for inclusion in the Draft License Application.</p>

## Finlay Anderson

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**From:** Matthew Harper  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2021 3:26 PM  
**To:** Terra Alpaugh; siron@fs.fed.us; tristan.leong@usda.gov; siron@usda.gov; adam.barnett@usda.gov; Nick.Buckmaster@wildlife.ca.gov; Irons, Sheila -FS  
**Cc:** Kelly Larimer; Finlay Anderson; Shannon Luoma; Matt Woodhall  
**Subject:** RE: Bishop Creek Recreation TWG  
**Attachments:** P1394\_Memo\_2021 Recreation Study Plan Implementation\_20210312.pdf

Hi folks,

Thank you all for agreeing to chat with us on Monday. Attached is a memo that generally describes proposed changes to the current REC 1 methods for data collection this summer. Generally, our goals and objectives will remain the same, and our methods will largely remain the same. The main proposed change will be to shift the means of collecting qualitative information from person-to-person interviews to a focus on marketing or guiding users to our current web survey and/or by placing drop boxes for paper surveys on site. One new item that we have not developed in web survey format is the creel survey, so I look forward to your thoughts, Nick, on how collection of that data through a web survey might play out.

If you have the chance, please take a moment to review the memo prior to Monday afternoon.

Thanks,

**Matthew Harper**

C: 971.325.5056

O: 971.337.3721

**Kleinschmidt**

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Terra Alpaugh <talpaugh@kearnswest.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 9:58 AM

**To:** Terra Alpaugh; Matthew Harper; Matt Woodhall; siron@fs.fed.us; tristan.leong@usda.gov; siron@usda.gov; adam.barnett@usda.gov; Nick.Buckmaster@wildlife.ca.gov; Finlay Anderson; Shannon Luoma; Kelly Larimer

**Cc:** Irons, Sheila -FS

**Subject:** Bishop Creek Recreation TWG

**When:** Monday, March 15, 2021 2:00 PM-3:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 321-209-6143,464400802#](#) United States, Orlando

## MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Bishop Creek Recreation & Land Use TWG

**From:** Matthew Harper, Kleinschmidt  
Matthew Woodhall, Southern California Edison  
Kelly Larimer, Kleinschmidt

**Cc:** Finlay Anderson, Kleinschmidt  
Shannon Luoma, Kleinschmidt

**Date:** March 12, 2021 **Document No.** 3202003.04\_ME

**Re:** 2021 Alternative REC 1 Study Methods

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### **Introduction**

Southern California Edison (SCE) is currently conducting relicensing studies for the Bishop Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1394). These studies began in 2019 with an informal opportunity to commence information gathering and were scheduled to conclude in 2021. A draft license application will be filed in January of 2022. While most studies have remained on schedule, numerous challenges have prevented the Recreation Use and Needs Study (REC 1) from being implemented as planned. This memo provides a proposal for completing this study utilizing alternative methods to account for ongoing concerns about the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic on data collection methods and accuracy. TWG concurrence on the change in approach will be sought.

### **Background**

On May 1, 2019<sup>1</sup>, SCE filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD), Notice of Intent (NOI), and proposed Technical Study Plans (TSPs) for the relicensing of the Bishop Creek Hydroelectric Project (Project). This filing followed a year of informal outreach and consultation with stakeholders through Technical Working Groups (TWGs). On July 18, 2019<sup>2</sup>, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) filed comments on the TSP and the Recreation Use and Needs (REC 1) study plan in particular.

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<sup>1</sup> Accession Number 20190501-5234

<sup>2</sup> Accession Number 20190717-0015



On August 29, 2019, SCE filed updated TSPs to address comments received from stakeholders and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) staff. SCE continued to collaborate with USFS staff prior to the 2020 field season to determine an appropriate frequency of summer and winter general recreation surveys that would provide a statistically supported assessment of average use and adequate qualitative feedback regarding user perceptions and experience at each site. Based on these conversations, study methods were agreed to during conference calls and captured in various memos to the USFS.

In January 2020, due to unexpected construction activity along South Lake Road, SCE and the USFS concluded that any surveys conducted under the REC 1 study plan during the 2020 recreation season would not provide a representative sample of use and should thus be postponed. Ensuing complications from the COVID-19 pandemic and historic wildfires in the area further confirmed this decision. As a result, in-person surveys and spot, traffic, and trail counts were rescheduled for the 2021 recreation season with the expectation that conditions would improve. During these same discussions, the USFS further articulated their intent to develop off-site surveys that, while more general in nature than the on-site surveys, would target questions directly related to use, avoidance of use, or desired use in the Bishop Creek area. While SCE had maintained that previous discussion of off-site surveys aimed to accomplish goals that had no direct nexus to the Project, SCE agreed to take a lead role in the implementation, collection, and analysis of off-site surveys. Through a series of conference calls from January through July 2020, SCE and the USFS finalized an off-site, web based recreation survey that has been placed on both [SCE's relicensing website](#) and the [Inyo National Forest website](#). The survey remains live and can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BishopCreekReservoirs>

## **2021 Recreation Season**

In preparation for the 2021 recreation season, SCE and the USFS held a conference call on January 19, 2021 to discuss the status of the remaining REC 1 activities. During the call, it was acknowledged that implementation of recreation surveys in the upcoming 2021 recreation season may continue to be challenging due to COVID-19 related restrictions and closures in the project area. REC 1 field work is currently scheduled to begin April 2021. With the significant unknowns associated with COVID-19 and availability of a vaccine, various options to delay scheduling or alter methods were also discussed.

Based on a subsequent call with the USFS on February 9, 2021, conversations with FERC staff, and internal discussions, SCE is proposing to move forward with data collection during the 2021 recreation season with the intent of meeting the same goals and objectives outlined in the current REC 1 study plan. This will largely be accomplished by modifying the current methods of collecting qualitative data for recreation use and needs at the project, both for the planned general recreation and creel surveys that were to be administered on-site.

As the small sample size of the web survey has shown, important qualitative information may still be obtained through alternate means, which would reduce the need for person-to-person contact amidst on-going COVID-19 safety concerns. Generally, most implementation methods will remain the same, with changes primarily being proposed to reduce the person-to-person contact associated with in-person surveys and instead 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. Table 2 below provides a side by side summary of current and proposed study methods for implementation of REC 1 studies in 2021.

## **Next Steps**

SCE has provided this memo in advance of and for discussion in a Recreation and Land Use TWG meeting being scheduled for early March 2021. SCE ultimately seeks TWG concurrence with this approach and looks forward to working with TWG members to complete these activities within the modified methods. Should TWG members not agree with this approach, we respectfully request an alternate proposal be provided in writing and with justification in alignment with 18 CFR §5.9 by no later than April 9, 2021. Changes to the field studies identified in this memo will be described in the next FERC progress

report, scheduled to be filed in November 2021. SCE will also provide the FERC with the updated schedule; therefore, explicit concurrence with this approach by Recreation and Land Use TWG members will be important.

**Table 1 Proposed Schedule**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
Recreation and Land Use TWG Meeting	Week of March 15 or 22, 2021
Requested Deadline for Comments /Concurrence	April 9, 2021
Request to Revise Study Plan to be Filed with FERC	April 16, 2021
Implementation of REC 1 Activities	April 25, 2021 – November 15, 2021
Updated Study Report Meeting	November 2021
Analyze Data and Prepare Draft Report	December 2021 – January 2022

**Table 2 Summary of Proposed Changes to 2021 Study Methods**

ACTIVITIES	CURRENT STUDY PLAN METHODS	PROPOSED CHANGES TO METHODS
<p>In-Person Interviews (General Recreation Surveys)</p>	<p><b><u>REC 1 Technical Study Plan, as filed on August 29, 2019</u></b>  <i>Visitor surveys will be conducted on-site using a survey form (available in both English and Spanish) at each general recreation survey site listed in Table 4-1 to collect recreation user characteristics and demographics (e.g., origin, gender, age and group size), satisfaction, type of activities, length of stay and perception of crowdedness, site conditions, fees and site needs. The survey form will also be made available online through a web address or QR code advertised at selected INF recreation areas. The data collected will be used to provide a general pattern of recreation use (e.g., type, volume and daily) and assist in the development of recreation use estimates for the Project area. The data will provide recreation user inputs on "crowdedness" and potential facility needs. An example survey form is included in Appendix D, and SCE will work with the INF to develop a final survey form prior to the 2020-2021 field seasons.</i></p> <p><i>SCE will also collaborate with its consultant's data management and statistics team and the INF to determine an appropriate frequency of summer and winter general recreation surveys that would provide a statistically supported assessment of average use and adequate qualitative feedback regarding user perceptions and experience at each site. Surveys will be conducted in the 2020 and 2021 field seasons and will attempt to gather a representative sample of weekday, non-peak weekend, and peak weekend use.</i></p> <p><i>All survey clerks for both the general recreation surveys and creel surveys discussed below will be trained thoroughly as a means of quality control. Survey clerks will be provided with detailed information on the study schedule, appropriate materials to aid in data collection and direction on appropriate interviewing techniques and attire.</i></p> <p><i>While there is no direct nexus to the Project, an off-site survey form will also be developed with the INF prior to the 2020-2021 field seasons for the purpose of engaging users choosing to not visit the Bishop Creek watershed to understand the regional perception of the watershed and what recreational opportunities may not be present but are desirable by the general public. Similarly, INF is interested in learning whether or not there aspects of the existing recreational opportunities in the Bishop Creek watershed that deter users from visiting the area. This data will be collected predominantly from the INF's White Mountain Ranger District office in Bishop, CA, although online surveys may also be utilized. The off-site survey data will be compiled and analyzed separately from the relicensing general use survey, which will be administered and reported as previously discussed.</i></p> <p><b><u>Changes to survey methods based on discussions with the USFS in late 2019 and memorialized in a December 10, 2019 memo:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCE resources for conducting on-site surveys will be focused on the three main recreation areas (Lake Sabrina, South Lake, and Intake No. 2 Recreation Areas). Should surveys be collected at INF campgrounds, they will be administered by campground hosts according to a randomly generated schedule.</li> <li>• Longley Lake has been removed from the list of sites where on-site surveys will be administered.</li> <li>• La Hupp Picnic Area and Tyee Day Use Area have been lumped into the South Lake Recreation Area.</li> <li>• The recreation season has been expanded to include the entire fishing season (April 25, 2020 – November 15, 2020).</li> <li>• As a result of the above, "Fishmas" and Memorial Day weekends have been added to the list of peak weekends. It should be noted that South Lake and Lake Sabrina Recreation Areas may not be open/accessible on April 25, 2020, dependent on weather conditions at that time.</li> <li>• Winter recreation surveys have been removed from the schedule. Information regarding winter recreational use will be obtained by examining past backcountry permits and perhaps providing surveys to local recreation groups that may provide qualitative information regarding past and future use of the Bishop Creek National Recreation Area during prime winter conditions.</li> </ul> <p>The frequency of surveys have been proposed with the intention of obtaining a representative sample of the population (at least 400 surveys) that visit each of the three main recreation areas (Lake Sabrina, South Lake, and Intake No. 2 Recreation areas). Should surveys also be administered at campgrounds within the Bishop Creek</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During 2019 and 2020, SCE and the USFS also developed an online survey tool meant to gather recreational use data at a broader level than solely individuals that are on-site at the moment of survey. This tool has been largely successful at gathering important qualitative information regarding the needs and desires of recreators at the Project reservoirs. While the survey has been posted on SCE and the USFS websites and social media, it has remained largely a passive attempt at collecting data.</li> <li>• In an attempt to reduce person-to-person contact during the 2021 recreation season (April 25, 2021 – November 15, 2021), SCE is proposing to replace person-to-person, on-site surveys with an expanded effort to obtain responses through the web survey, specifically to also target recreation users that are currently on-site or have just been on-site. To do so, QR codes and urls of the web survey will be posted at the recreation areas; fliers placed on car windshields; and potentially a drop box installed with forms to be filled on site. Concerted efforts will also be made to distribute the web survey via email, social media, and website postings to obtain as many responses as possible.</li> <li>• The current web survey will be reviewed alongside the approved on-site survey to determine if any changes need to be made for on-site user responses.</li> <li>• Either via separate QR codes and urls as an additional survey question, responses will be categorized based on the source of the survey taker (onsite, website, email blast, etc).</li> <li>• Staff will still be needed to post surveys, distribute fliers, install drop boxes, retrieve surveys, etc., though at a reduced frequency and without the need for person-to-person contact. Activities can be conducted at the same time as spot counts.</li> <li>• SCE anticipates that the qualitative information obtained from these surveys will meet the same goals and objectives outlined in the study plan of on-site surveys.</li> </ul>

ACTIVITIES	CURRENT STUDY PLAN METHODS	PROPOSED CHANGES TO METHODS
	<p>National Recreation Area, they too should meet the standards for a representative sample of the population of campground users as a whole. A sampling day is assumed be a 6 hour period generally ranging from 11am to 5pm in an attempt to encounter the most recreationists and gather surveys from recreationists exiting in both the morning and afternoon. Calculations for number of surveys assume an average of 4 surveys completed per hour. With these assumptions in place, an estimated 432 surveys would be collected within each main recreation area (1,296 in total). Campground surveys would provide an additional 1,584 surveys for an estimated grand total of 2,880 surveys. For each sampling area or site, the exact days for sampling will be randomly generated throughout the recreation season.</p>	
<p><i>In-Person Interviews (Creel Surveys)</i></p>	<p><b>REC 1 Technical Study Plan, as filed on August 29, 2019</b>  <i>Creel surveys will be conducted using a field data sheet (Appendix E) at each creel survey site listed in Table 4-1 to collect angler characteristics (e.g., origin, gender, age and group size), determine current angler timing, effort, harvest, composition, success, and an estimate of catch-per-unit effort by species.</i></p> <p><i>Creel surveys will be conducted at least monthly on weekends during angling season (approximately May to October) with the intent of spending at least one hour at each designated survey point. Additional surveys may be opportunistically conducted by survey clerks encountering anglers while performing other studies such as the general recreation surveys. The objective will be to complete a combined total of at least 50 surveys at creel survey sites during the field season.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the general recreation survey methods described above, the currently approved creel survey data sheet will be converted to a web survey and distributed in a similar manner.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Spot Counts</i></p>	<p><b>REC 1 Technical Study Plan, as filed on August 29, 2019</b>  <i>Spot counts will be conducted at each recreation site listed in Table 4-1 in conjunction with the general recreation surveys outlined in Section 4.1.4. Spot counts will allow for documentation of the number of vehicles and trailers at each parking area as a means of estimating the number of users currently at the site along with weather, time, and license plate data.</i></p> <p>As determined in consultation with the USFS following the filing of the Revised Technical Study Plan, the current schedule provides for 7 weekday (non-peak), 7 weekend (non-peak) and 4 holiday (peak) counts for each of the three recreation areas. These counts would be taken at the same time as user surveys, resulting in a total of 55 days in the field. The survey schedule will be randomly generated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot count methods will essentially not change. As user counts are not scheduled, spot counts for all three recreation areas should be feasible within a single morning or afternoon, thus reducing the number of field days from 55 to 18 days, while still conducting the same number of counts.</li> <li>• Local staff would be needed to perform the 18 days of spot counts and related data management, as well as the data collection activities described above for web surveys.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Traffic Counters</i></p>	<p><b>REC 1 Technical Study Plan, as filed on August 29, 2019</b>  <i>Where traffic counters are currently installed to record the number of vehicles that enter and exit the recreation sites, a minimum of one year of traffic counter data will be collected and analyzed to help determine use and patterns of public access at the site. The number and location of traffic counters will be determined in consultation with the INF prior to the 2020-2021 field seasons.</i></p> <p>As determined in consultation with the USFS following the filing of the Revised Technical Study Plan, traffic counters will be installed to collect total vehicles exiting each of the three recreation areas (Lake Sabrina, South Lake, and Intake No. 2 Reservoir).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methods will not change. These totals, combined with spot counts, will provide a fairly accurate picture of total use at each recreation area.</li> <li>• In conversations with staff currently conducting USFS NVUM studies at Inyo NF, they are not planning to implement traffic counters in 2021. SCE will still work with NVUM staff to find efficiencies in dual data collection efforts, where feasible.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Trail Counters</i></p>	<p><b>REC 1 Technical Study Plan, as filed on August 29, 2019</b>  <i>At three locations, trail counter data will be collected and analyzed for a minimum of one year to determine use and patterns of informal access to the following informal trails adjacent to the Project boundary:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Inlet Trail, as it is labeled on a map at the Lake Sabrina Boat Landing, where an informal trail has been created, extending from the marina along the western shore of Lake Sabrina to the Bishop Creek inlet.</i></li> <li>• <i>Green Creek Diversion Pipeline, where users are informally using of the pipeline right-of-way as a trail.</i></li> <li>• <i>Little Egypt Trail, an informal stream crossing and trail near SCE's Powerhouse No. 3 that is used to access the Little Egypt climbing area.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methods will not change.</li> </ul>

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

**DATE:** March 15, 2020, 2-3 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Conference Call  
**Topics:** 2021 Alternative REC 1 Study methods

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*\*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**

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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**

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- 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.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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

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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 (4<sup>th</sup> 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.

DRAFT



**From:** [Buckmaster, Nick@Wildlife](mailto:Nick.Buckmaster@wildlife.ca.gov)  
**To:** [Matthew Harper](mailto:Matthew.Harper@kleinschmidtgroup.com); [Terra Alpaugh](mailto:Terra.Alpaugh@kearnswest.com); [matthew.woodhall@sce.com](mailto:matthew.woodhall@sce.com); [sirons@fs.fed.us](mailto:sirons@fs.fed.us); [tristan.leong@usda.gov](mailto:tristan.leong@usda.gov); [sirons@usda.gov](mailto:sirons@usda.gov); [adam.barnett@usda.gov](mailto:adam.barnett@usda.gov); [Finlay Anderson](mailto:Finlay.Anderson@kleinschmidtgroup.com); [Shannon Luoma](mailto:Shannon.Luoma@kleinschmidtgroup.com); [Kelly Larimer](mailto:Kelly.Larimer@kleinschmidtgroup.com); [Irons, Sheila -FS](mailto:Irons.Sheila-FS@usda.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: Bishop Creek Recreation TWG  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 4:51:45 PM

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Thanks Matt,

The proposed changes look good to me. To answer your questions:

- I think 1 day/weekend is fine.
- Most folks fish from 7am to 5pm, with peak effort between 9 and 2. I would recommend trying to randomly sample two, four hour blocks (morning and afternoon/evening) if the entire day cannot be sampled
- I will ask around. I assume they would be hired onto the Kleinschmidt team?
- 

I appreciate you following up,

Best,

---

**From:** Matthew Harper <Matthew.Harper@Kleinschmidtgroup.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 10:28 AM

**To:** Buckmaster, Nick@Wildlife <Nick.Buckmaster@wildlife.ca.gov>; Terra Alpaugh <talpaugh@kearnswest.com>; matthew.woodhall@sce.com; sirons@fs.fed.us; tristan.leong@usda.gov; sirons@usda.gov; adam.barnett@usda.gov; Finlay Anderson <finlay.anderson@kleinschmidtgroup.com>; Shannon Luoma <Shannon.Luoma@KleinschmidtGroup.com>; Kelly Larimer <Kelly.Larimer@KleinschmidtGroup.com>; Irons, Sheila -FS <sheila.irons@usda.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Bishop Creek Recreation TWG

**WARNING:** This email originated from outside of CDFW and should be treated with extra caution.

Thank you for this, Nick, and my apologies on the late reply.

So, our current random schedule had ten field days identified during the peak season (Labor Day through Memorial Day) you've identified (3 holiday [one for each holiday weekend]; 4 weekend; 3 weekday). There are a total of 101 days during that peak season, so since I'm really good at math, 20% of that is roughly 20 days, but we'll call it 21. So, I'm proposing that we add an additional random ten days between Labor Day and Memorial Day so that the total field days would come out to the following:

- 1 Labor Day
- 1 Independence Day
- 1 Memorial Day
- 9 weekends
- 9 weekdays

A few follow up questions:

- My main question is whether we should bump the holidays up to two days per holiday weekend? It would be random between the Saturday, Sunday, Monday associated with it since all have Monday listed as a holiday.
- What time(s) of day are you finding the most folks angling and then leaving? Or are you interested in a stratified approach to time of day as well?
- Are you aware of any temporary staff that we could reach out to for assistance on this and the general recreation survey? We may need to post the job next week if we can't obtain anyone through word of mouth. No luck so far.

Again, thank you, Nick, and everyone else for your input and flexibility on this study.

**Matthew Harper**

C: 971.325.5056

O: 971.337.3721

**Kleinschmidt**

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**From:** Buckmaster, Nick@Wildlife <[Nick.Buckmaster@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Nick.Buckmaster@wildlife.ca.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:01 AM

**To:** Terra Alpaugh <[talpaugh@kearnswest.com](mailto:talpaugh@kearnswest.com)>; Matthew Harper <[Matthew.Harper@Kleinschmidtgroup.com](mailto:Matthew.Harper@Kleinschmidtgroup.com)>; [matthew.woodhall@sce.com](mailto:matthew.woodhall@sce.com); [sirons@fs.fed.us](mailto:sirons@fs.fed.us); [tristan.leong@usda.gov](mailto:tristan.leong@usda.gov); [sirons@usda.gov](mailto:sirons@usda.gov); [adam.barnett@usda.gov](mailto:adam.barnett@usda.gov); Finlay Anderson <[finlay.anderson@kleinschmidtgroup.com](mailto:finlay.anderson@kleinschmidtgroup.com)>; Shannon Luoma <[Shannon.Luoma@KleinschmidtGroup.com](mailto:Shannon.Luoma@KleinschmidtGroup.com)>; Kelly Larimer <[Kelly.Larimer@KleinschmidtGroup.com](mailto:Kelly.Larimer@KleinschmidtGroup.com)>

**Cc:** Irons, Sheila -FS <[sheila.irons@usda.gov](mailto:sheila.irons@usda.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Bishop Creek Recreation TWG

Hi all,

I wanted to send a couple of quick follow-ups on the creel survey question:

- 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.
- I would recommend stratifying sampling days as follows:
  - Major holiday weekends (4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Best

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**From:** Terra Alpaugh <[talpaugh@kearnswest.com](mailto:talpaugh@kearnswest.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2021 2:07 PM

**To:** Matthew Harper <[Matthew.Harper@Kleinschmidtgroup.com](mailto:Matthew.Harper@Kleinschmidtgroup.com)>; [matthew.woodhall@sce.com](mailto:matthew.woodhall@sce.com); [sirons@fs.fed.us](mailto:sirons@fs.fed.us); [tristan.leong@usda.gov](mailto:tristan.leong@usda.gov); [sirons@usda.gov](mailto:sirons@usda.gov); [adam.barnett@usda.gov](mailto:adam.barnett@usda.gov); Buckmaster,

Nick@Wildlife <[Nick.Buckmaster@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Nick.Buckmaster@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Finlay Anderson <[finlay.anderson@kleinschmidtgroup.com](mailto:finlay.anderson@kleinschmidtgroup.com)>; Shannon Luoma <[Shannon.Luoma@KleinschmidtGroup.com](mailto:Shannon.Luoma@KleinschmidtGroup.com)>; Kelly Larimer <[Kelly.Larimer@KleinschmidtGroup.com](mailto:Kelly.Larimer@KleinschmidtGroup.com)>

**Cc:** Irons, Sheila -FS <[sheila.irons@usda.gov](mailto:sheila.irons@usda.gov)>

**Subject:** Bishop Creek Recreation TWG

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**Terra Alpaugh**

Director

**Kearns & West**

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*Preferred pronouns: She, her*

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