

Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project

FERC No. 1388

CULTURAL & TRIBAL RESOURCES
Technical Working Group Meeting

March 31, 2021

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
 - Safety Moment
 - Introductions
 - Review of February TWG notes and action items
 - Meeting goals
- Discussion of Study Plan Requests
 - Objectives
 - Rationale, Nexus
 - Study Area
 - Methods
- Schedule, Next Steps, Action Items
 - Next TWG date(s)
 - Study Plan Titles/Outlines
 - Other action items
- Final Questions

Safety Moment



Lee Vining Relicensing TWG Team

SCE Team

Matthew Woodhall
Project Manager

Martin Ostendorf
Senior Manager

Audry Williams
Senior Archeologist,
Cultural/Tribal TWG Lead

Seth Carr
Operations Manager

Consultant Team

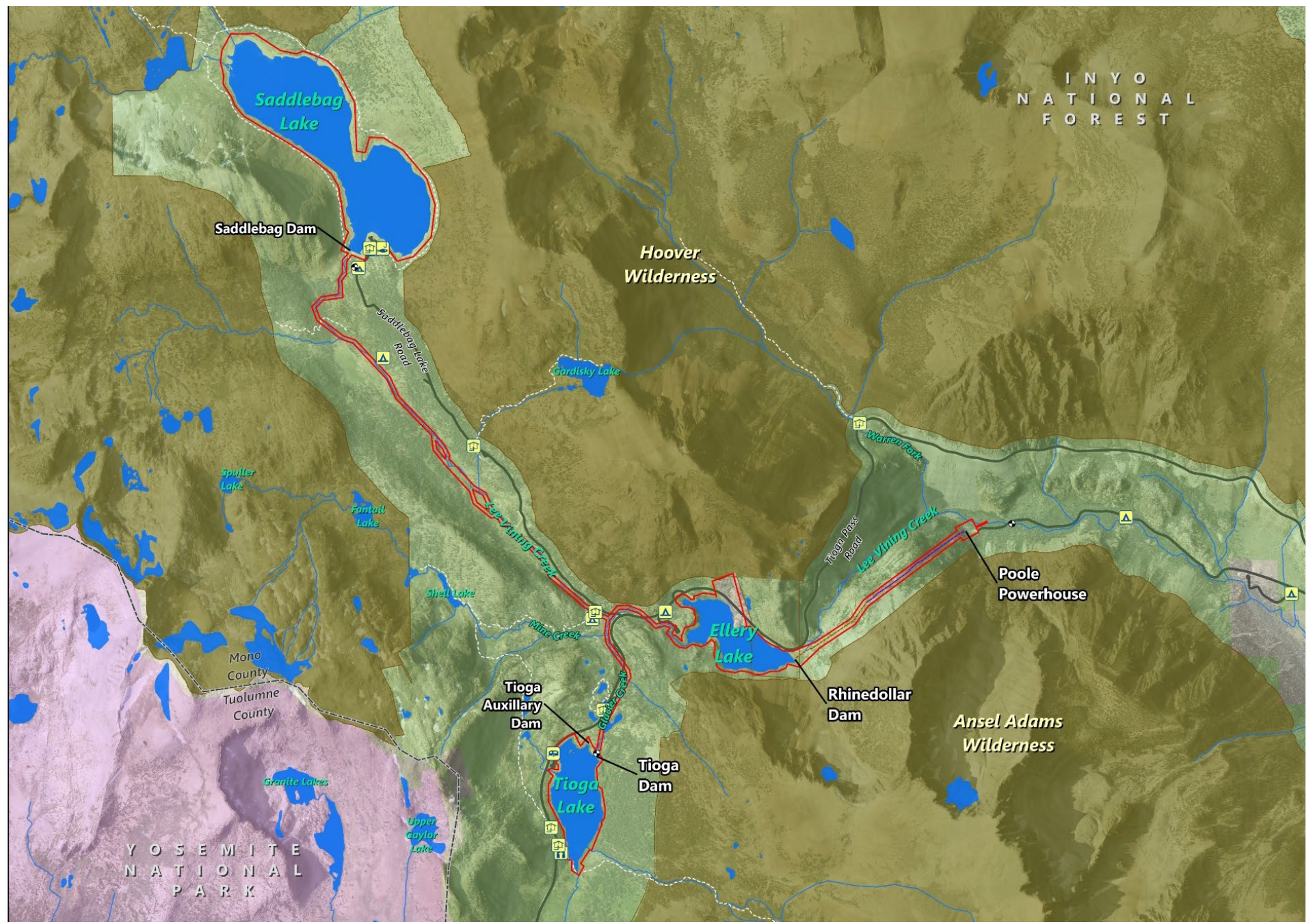
Finlay Anderson
Project Manager

Shannon Luoma
Deputy PM

Kelly Larimer
Project Director

Carissa Shoemaker
TWG Coordinator

**Cultural and Tribal
Support**
Lynn Compas
Shelly Davis-King



Review of February TWG Notes and Action Items

- The relicensing team circulated updated requests for comments and a team contact list
- Concern expressed that tribal interests are boxed into cultural and tribal TWGs and not considered in other TWGs
- The current project FERC license, relevant amending orders, and the Environmental Assessment have been uploaded to the project website
- Previous consultation letters will be reviewed for tribal comments or outreach and information included in the PAD
- A summary of the other three TWGs' potential studies is included in this presentation

Confidential/Sensitive Information Disclaimer

- We are aware that sensitive issues may be discussed during this meeting, TWGs are open to all people but we believe this to be a safe place to share
- We welcome suggestions on how to include confidential or sensitive information
- If there is information that you'd rather not discuss here, please contact
 - Shelly Davis-King shellydk@frontiernet.net or
 - Audry Williams audry.williams@sce.com

Preliminary Application Document (PAD) Section Review Schedule

- Related to existing information; will be looking for your input.

Date	Activity
April 16	Cultural and Tribal draft sections of PAD distributed to Tribes
April 16 – May 16	Tribes' 30-day review of PAD sections
May 16	1st pre-review of PAD comments due
May 26	TWG Meeting (discuss PAD Comments)
October 2021	Public Meeting to discuss PAD and Notice of Intent (NOI)
October/November 2021	Stakeholders file comments on NOI/PAD and request studies

Study Plans

Potential Studies for Other Resource Areas

- Aquatics
 - Aquatic Habitat Assessment and Sediment Characterization
 - Operations Model / Peaking Flow Study
 - Stream Fish Populations
 - Reservoir Fish Populations
 - *Didymo* and other Aquatic Invasive Plants
 - Water quality assessment

Potential Studies for Other Resource Areas (continued)

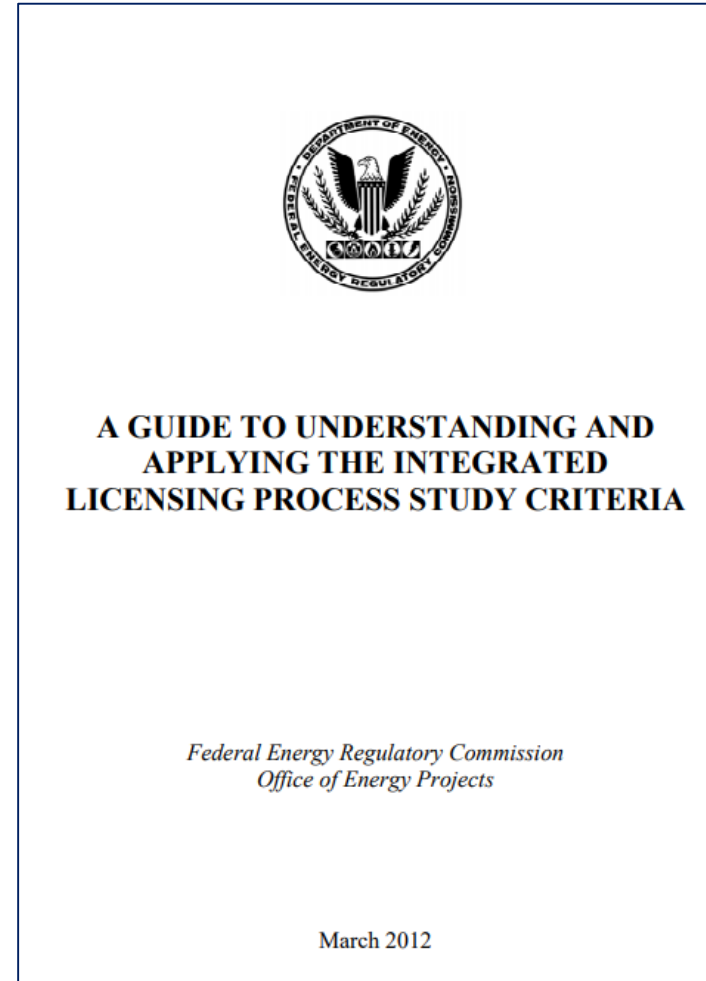
- Terrestrial and Botanical
 - General Wildlife and Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) Species
 - Botanical (RTE and invasive)
 - Assessment of Riparian Community
- Recreation and Land Use
 - Recreation Use and Needs Evaluation
 - Existing Recreation Facilities Condition Assessment
 - Project Boundary and Roads

Goal of Study Plans

- Issuance of a new license is a major “federal action”
- Therefore, FERC will go through the NEPA process to ensure the action is:
 - Consistent with federal laws
 - Federal Power Act
 - National Historic Preservation Act
 - Clean Water Act
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Consistent with current resource management objectives
 - In the public interest

FERC has criteria for study identification

1. Goals and Objectives
 2. Relevant Resource Management Goals and Public Interest considerations
 3. Existing Information
 4. Project Nexus
 5. Proposed Methodology
 6. Level of effort and Cost
- <https://www.ferc.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/guide-study-criteria.pdf>



Cultural Resource Study Plan Objectives, Rationale/Nexus, Proposed Study Area and APE, Methods

Objectives:

- Identify previously recorded and unrecorded archaeological sites and built environment features within the Proposed APE and evaluate them for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

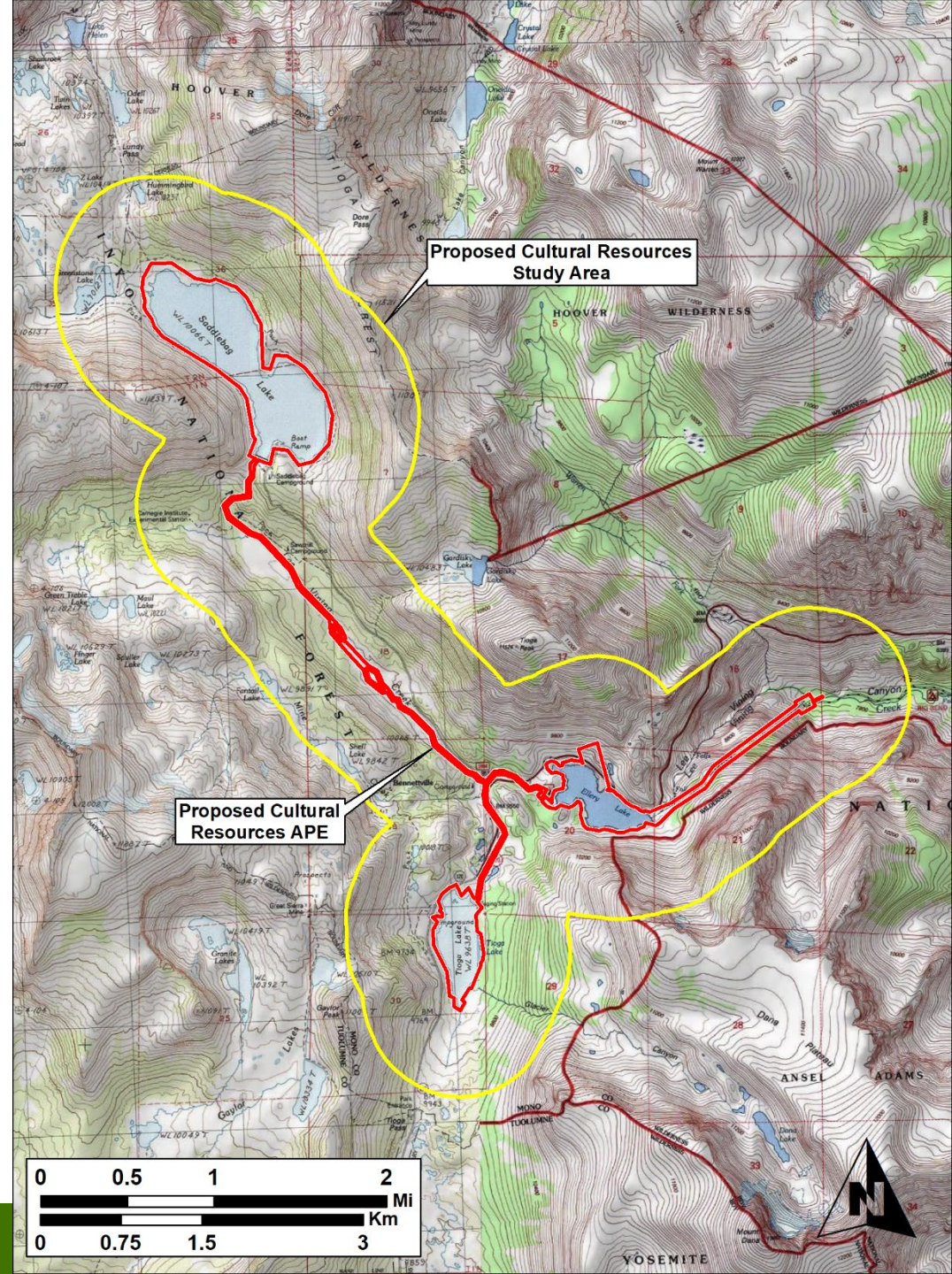
Rationale/Nexus:

- Project operations and maintenance may affect NRHP-eligible resources and resources with associated Tribal values.

Proposed Study Area:

- The proposed study area is a 0.5 mile buffer around the proposed APE.
- The proposed APE is the current FERC boundary.

Proposed Cultural Resources Study Area and APE



Cultural Resource Study Plan Methods

Methods:

- Conduct background research throughout the life of the project
- Conduct archaeological and built environment surveys
- Prepare cultural resource technical reports for surveys
- Evaluate previously unevaluated archaeological and built-environment resources for the NRHP
- Prepare evaluation reports for archaeological and built-environment resources
- Prepare a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for cultural resources

FERC's Content Requirements for Tribal Resources

Requirements for Tribal Resources are specified in

18 CFR §5.6(d)(3)(xii): (xii)

Description of Indian Tribes, Tribal lands, Tribal resources and interests in Project Area that may have been affected by project construction and operation

- Identification of Tribal cultural or economic interests
- Identification Tribal values related to archaeological or other cultural resources
- Identification of various Tribal practices or agreements that may have a connection to the Project, such as gathering protocols or agreements
- Identification of trails, Tribal activities, or other features in the Project

Tribal Resource Study Plan Objectives, Rationale/Nexus, Proposed Study Area/APE

Objectives:

- Identify tribal resources within the Proposed APE and if potential historic properties, evaluate them for the NRHP.

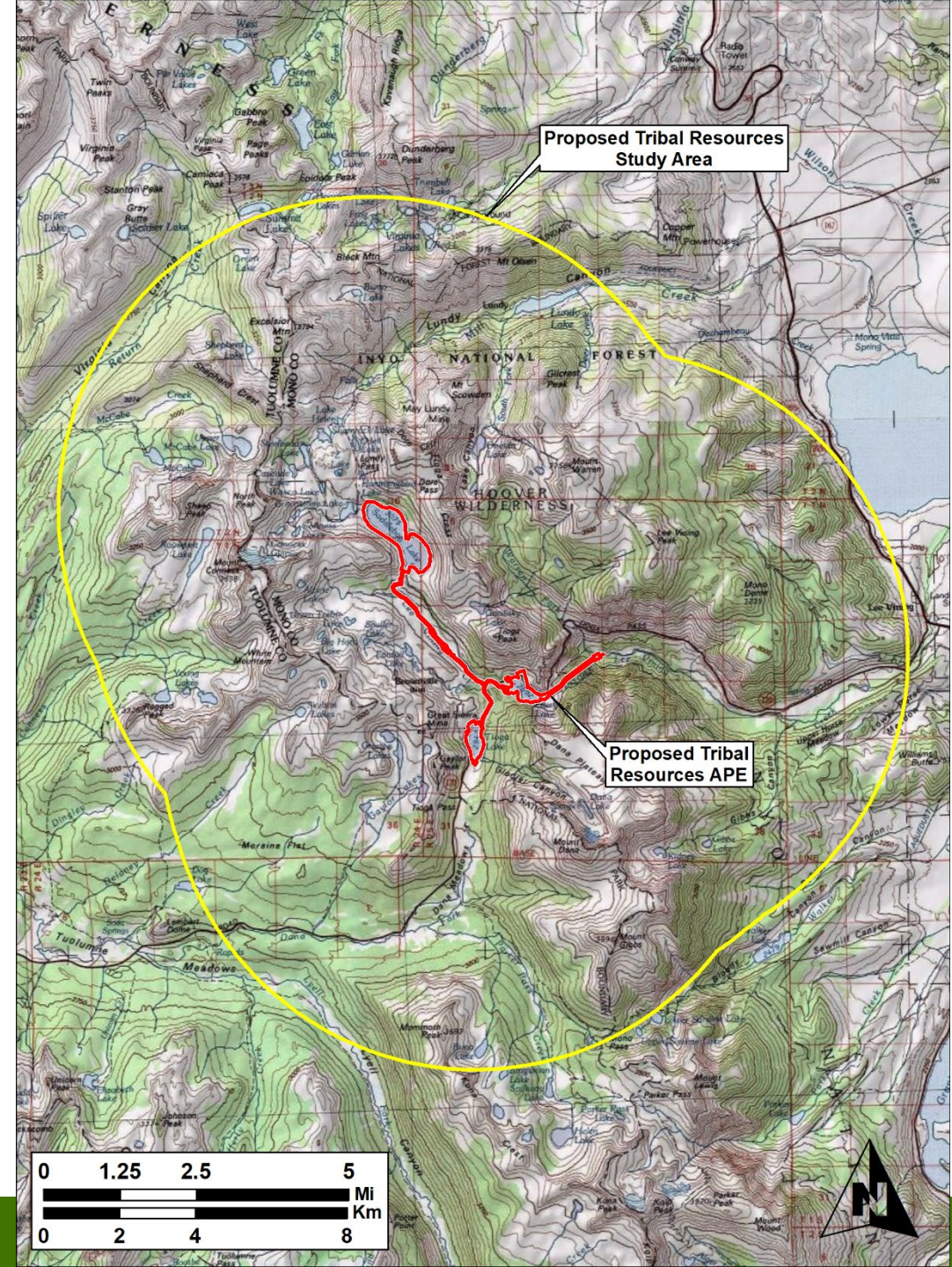
Rationale/Nexus:

- Project operations and maintenance may affect NRHP-eligible tribal resources and resources with Tribal values.

Proposed Study Area:

- The proposed study area is a 5.0 mile buffer around the proposed APE.
- The proposed APE is the current FERC boundary.

Proposed Tribal Resources Study Area and APE



Tribal Resource Study Plan Methods

Methods:

- Conduct background archival and ethnohistorical research throughout the life of the project
- Contact and meet with Tribal governments as appropriate. Work with Tribal Preservation Offices to identify resources
- Interview tribal members
- Prepare tribal resource technical report
- Evaluate tribal resources that may be eligible for the NRHP and describe tribal resources that may not be historic properties
- Prepare evaluation reports as needed
- Review management plans for other resources areas and ensure tribal values are considered; contribute to the HPMP.

Study Plan Discussion

RELICENSING SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Relicensing Process Schedule

(subject to change depending on relicensing process)

Date	Activity
August 2, 2021	SCE Files Notice of Intent/Pre-Application Document (NOI/PAD)
September 2021	FERC initiates Tribal consultation
September – October 2021	<i>If ILP:</i> FERC issues Notice of Commencement and Scoping Document 1 (SD1) and hosts scoping meeting/site visit <i>If TLP:</i> FERC approves use of TLP
October 2021	Public Meeting to discuss PAD and NOI
October/November 2021	Stakeholders file comments on NOI/PAD and request studies
November 13, 2021	SCE files proposed Study Plans
January 2022	SCE hosts Study Plan Meeting
April 2022	Revise Study Plans as appropriate
Spring/Summer 2022-2023	Conduct field studies
September 3, 2024	SCE Files Draft License Application
January 31, 2025	SCE Files Final License Application

Tentative TWG Meeting Schedule

Date		Activity
Week of May 24, 2021	Monday, May 24	Aquatic Resources TWG 4
	Wednesday AM, May 26	Terrestrial and Botanical TWG 4
	Wednesday PM, May 26	Cultural and Tribal TWG 4
	Thursday, May 27	Recreation and Land Use TWG 4

Date	Activity
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How to Stay Involved

- Check the Project website for updates/news at www.sce.com/leevining
- You can view other SCE relicensing Projects at www.sce.com/regulatory/hydro-licensing
- Sign-up to receive Project-related emails through the Contact Registration Form/Project Questionnaire on the Project website
- Participate in an ongoing TWG
- Sign up for FERC's for e-subscription (docket number "P-1388") at www.ferc.gov
- Email Carissa Shoemaker carissa.shoemaker@erm.com, Shelly Davis-King, or Audry Williams with questions



Thank you!