

Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project

FERC No. 1388

TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES
Technical Working Group Meeting #1

Safety Moment



Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
 - Safety Moment
 - Introduction to facilitators
 - Meeting guidelines
 - Review of November TWG notes
- TWG Purpose & Objectives
 - Review materials
 - FERC NEPA process overview
 - FERC's 7 Study Plan Criteria
- Discussion of Resource Management Objectives/Public Interest Considerations
 - Desired future conditions
 - Data gaps
 - Potential study requests
- Schedule, Next Steps, Action Items
- Final Questions

Lee Vining Relicensing TWG Team

SCE Team

Matthew Woodhall
Project Manager

Martin Ostendorf
Senior Manager

Seth Carr
Operations Manager

Consultant Team

Finlay Anderson
Project Manager

Kelly Larimer
Project Director

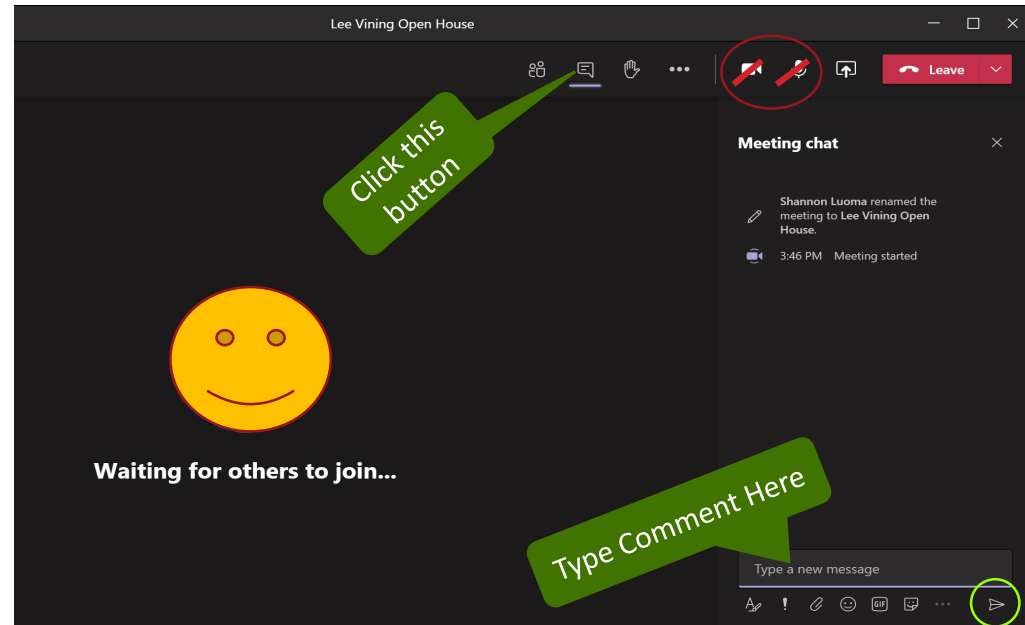
Shannon Luoma
Deputy PM

Carissa Shoemaker
TWG Coordinator

**Steve Norton &
Allison Rudalevige**
Terrestrial TWG Leads

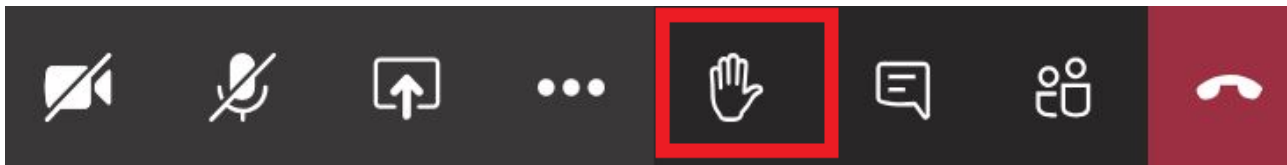
Meeting Tips and Guidelines

- Please remain on mute unless called on
- Turn off camera
- Meeting materials are available on Project website www.sce.com/leevining
- Consider shutting down other background programs for best meeting audio/viewing quality
- Utilize the chat box during the presentation for questions or comments
- Questions will be answered in appropriate Q&A sections as time allows



How to Ask a Question

- Use the chat box or ask question verbally
- Use the “Raise Hand” feature to indicate you would like to ask your question verbally



- Please wait to be called on and then unmute your line
 - Introduce yourself (name and affiliation) prior to speaking
- Please listen and respect each other
- Please stay on topic

Review of November TWG notes

- Are there opportunities for golden eagle surveys
 - Places where there are consultation requirements or regulatory guidelines such as ESA, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Incidental Take Permits, etc. The relicensing team plans to adhere to those requirements. There may be an opportunity, as the TWG and study plans develop, to request such a survey.

TWG Materials Provided via Email and Website

- Email
 - Agenda and Homework
 - FERC Scoping Overview Memo
 - Draft Nov 2020 Initial TWG Meeting Notes
 - Study Plan Template
- Website
 - TWG Charter Document
 - Select parts of PAD
 - PAD References List
 - Comprehensive Management Plans List
 - FERC NEPA overview
 - FERC Study Criteria

Stakeholder “Homework”: Discussion of Resource Management Objectives

- Desired Future Conditions
- Data Gaps
- Potential Study Requests
 - Study Area
 - Project Nexus
 - Goals and Objectives

Due date for Study Plan Requests - February 5, 2021

FERC RELICENSING PROCESS

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



**A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING AND
APPLYING THE INTEGRATED
LICENSING PROCESS STUDY CRITERIA**

*Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Office of Energy Projects*

March 2012

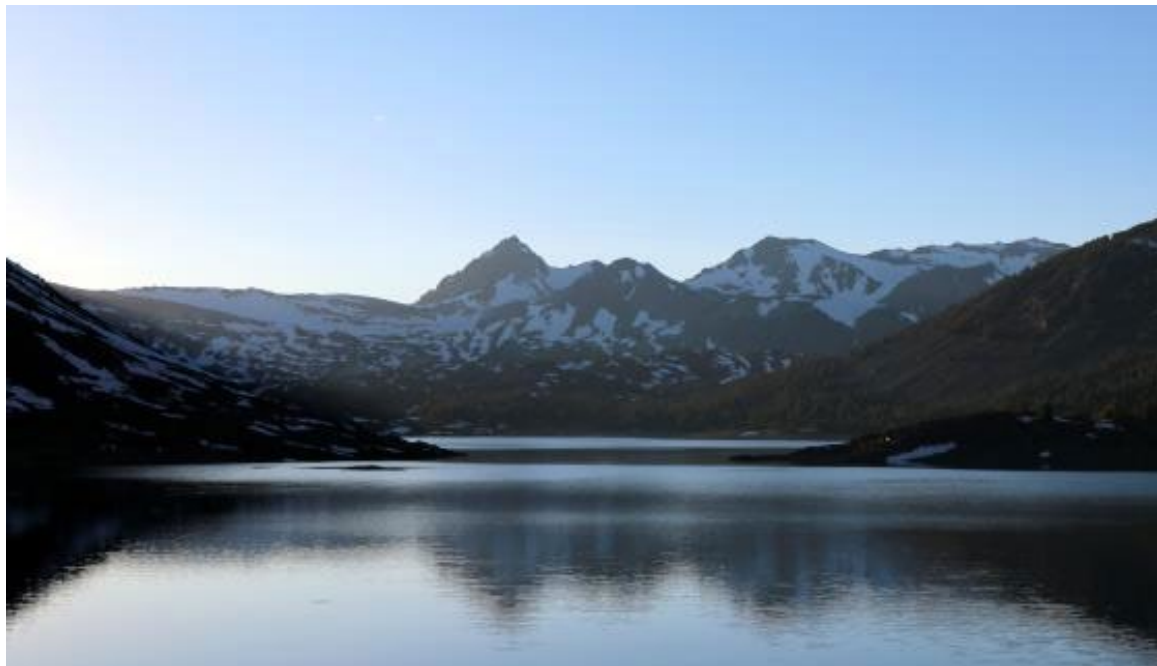
2021 FERC Critical Dates for TWGs

- Jan-July 2021: TWG meetings to develop outline of Study Plans and objectives
- August 2021: SCE Files the PAD
 - After the PAD is filed, TWGs will have approximately 4-5 months to wrap up proposed Study Plans
- Sept/Oct 2021: Study Plan Development
 - *If ILP*: FERC will issue Scoping Document(s) that outlines NEPA requirements
- Oct/Nov 2021: Stakeholders file comments on Study Plans
 - TWGs review received comments and assess whether input needs to be added into Study Plans
- January 2022: SCE Hosts Study Plan meeting
 - TWG members encouraged to attend/participate

Questions?

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources

- ▶ TWG Leads
 - ▶ Steve Norton, Psomas Senior Biologist
 - ▶ Allison Rudalevige, Psomas Senior Botanist



Terrestrial and Botanical Topics

- Wildlife
- Botanical
- RTE Species
- Wetlands and Floodplains

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources

Existing Data



Belding's Ground Squirrel at Saddlebag Lake, 2018

- State and Federal Database Reviews
- SCE Biological Survey Reports
- License Compliance Documents
- USFS Data and Publications
- Scientific Literature

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources

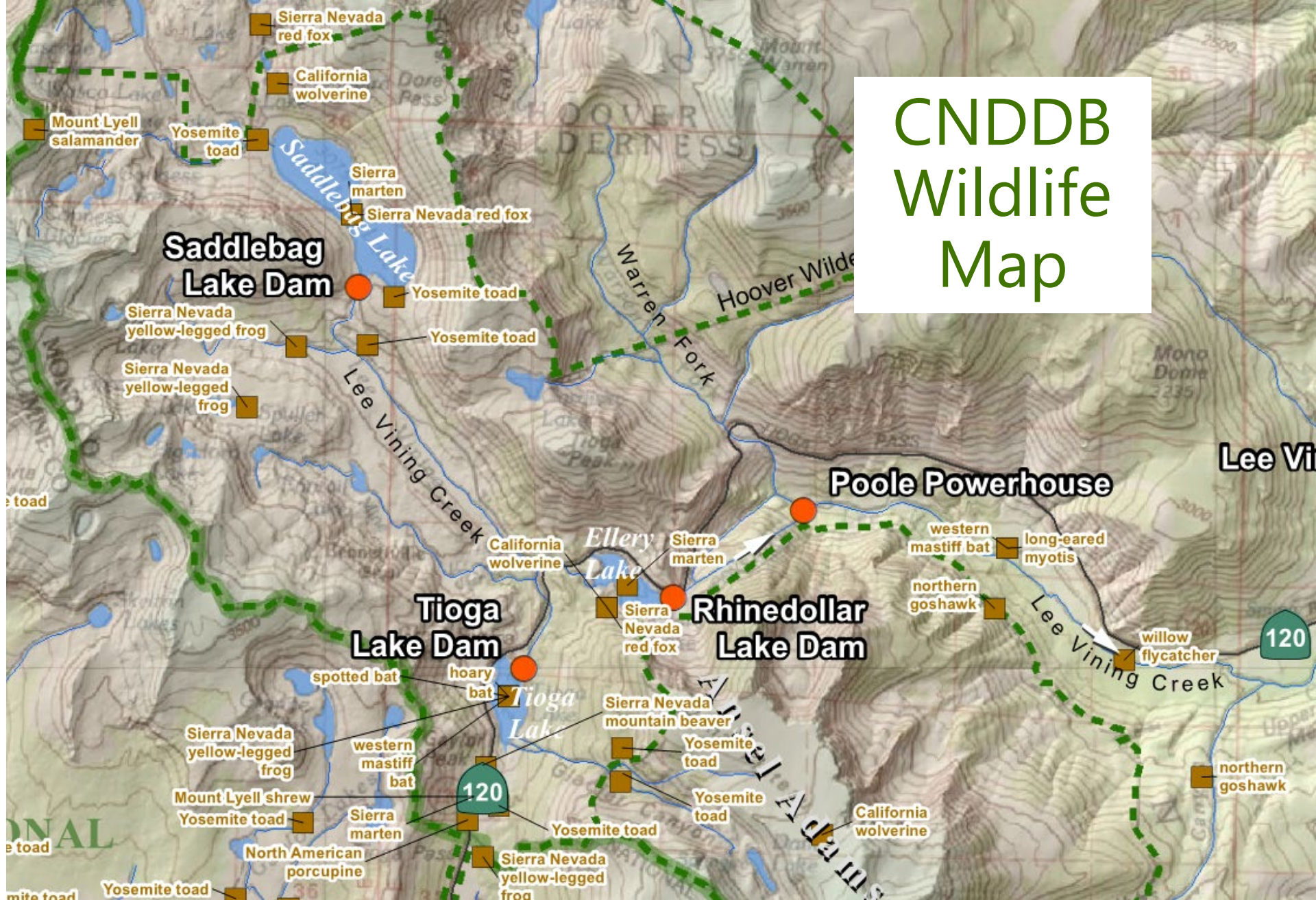
Existing Environment

- 14 Vegetation Types Remotely Mapped within Project Area
 - Ranging from wet meadows to scrub to forested areas with riparian and conifer-dominated communities.
 - Provide a wide range of habitats for wildlife.
- Special Status Species Present
 - Yosemite toad
 - Whitebark pine
- Critical Habitat
 - Yosemite toad
 - Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog
 - Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep

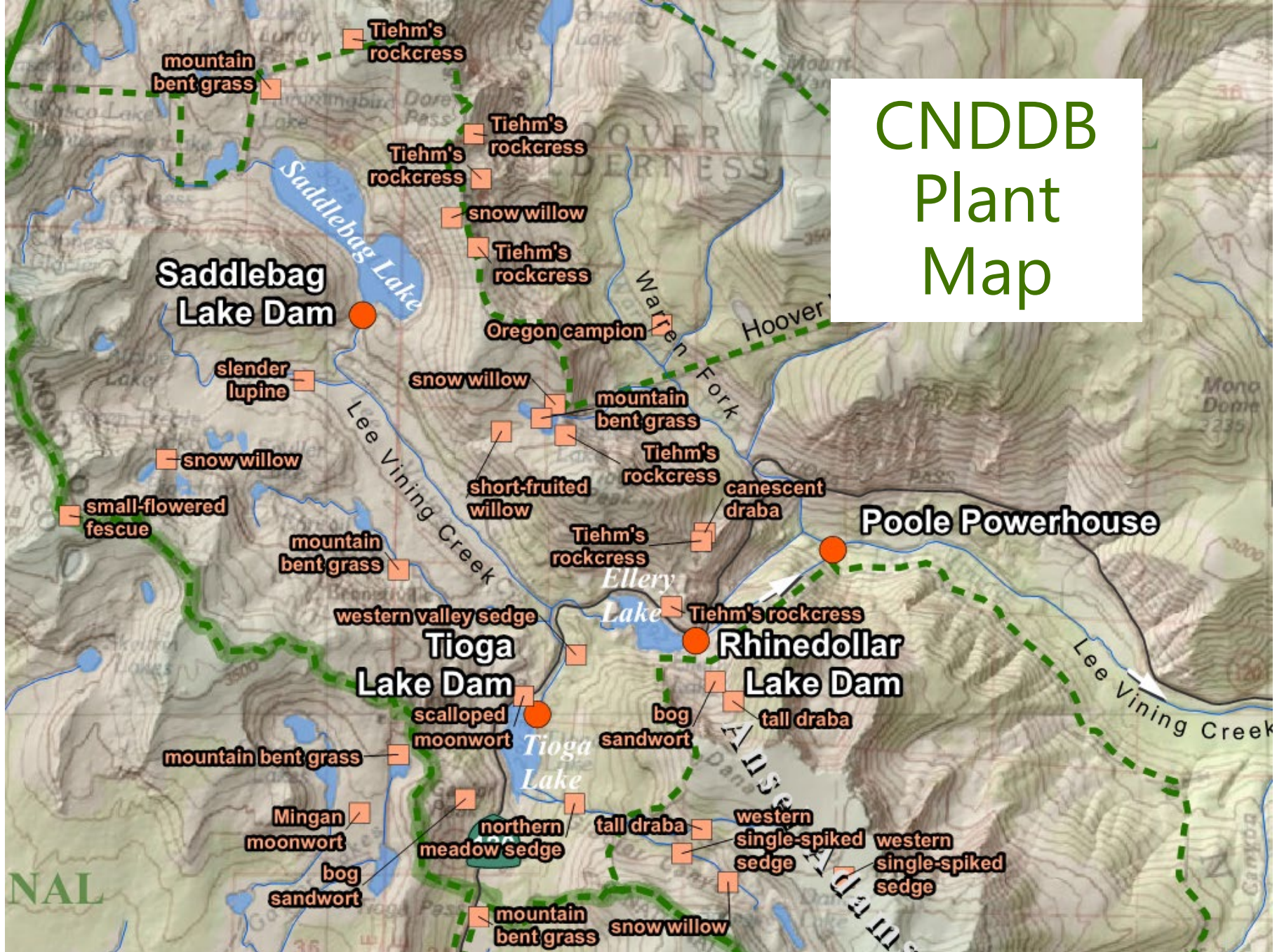


Yosemite Toad at Saddlebag
Lake, 2020

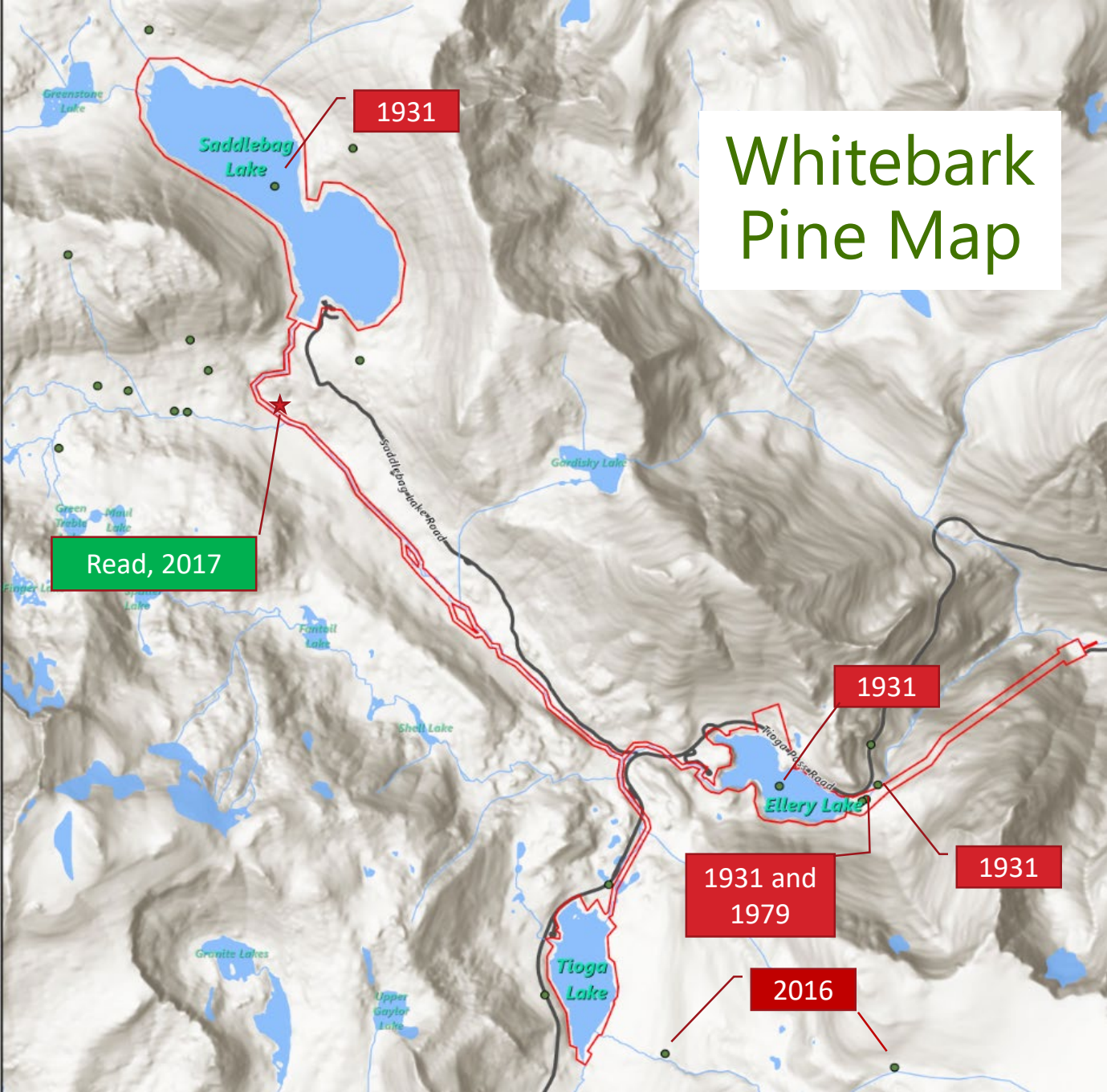
CNDDDB Wildlife Map



CNDDDB Plant Map

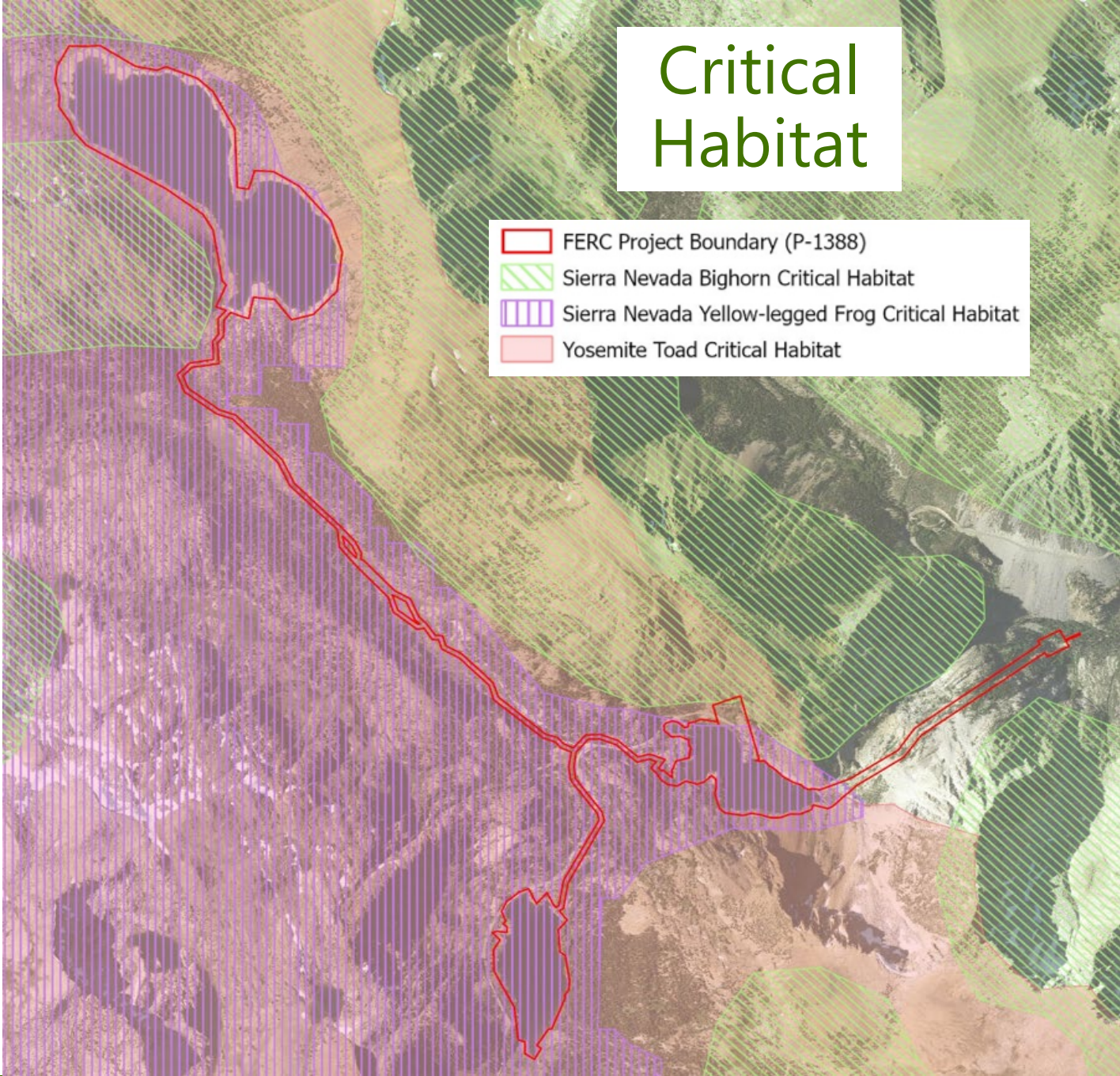


Whitebark Pine Map



Critical Habitat

- FERC Project Boundary (P-1388)
- Sierra Nevada Bighorn Critical Habitat
- Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Critical Habitat
- Yosemite Toad Critical Habitat



Wetlands and Floodplains

- ## Existing Data
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
 - Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
 - Freshwater Pond
 - Lake
 - Riverine



Terrestrial and Botanical Resources

Known Data Gaps

- Ground-truth vegetation mapping within the FERC right-of-way

Unknown Data Gaps

- Unrecorded species occurrences known by public and local organizations

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources

Preliminary Relicensing Topics

- Identify protected or managed species present within the Project boundary
- Assess habitat suitability for special status wildlife and plants
- Protect habitat for special status species

Potential Studies

- Wildlife Study
- Botanical Study



Pika at Saddlebag Lake, 2018

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources

- Questions
- Do you have information you want to share with us?
- Proposed next TWG dates:
 - TWG 2: February 23
 - TWG 3: March 30

Stakeholder “Homework”: Discussion of Resource Management Objectives

- Desired Future Conditions
- Data Gaps
- Potential Study Requests
 - Study Area
 - Project Nexus
 - Goals and Objectives

Due date for Study Plan Requests - February 5, 2021

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 2 & 3 Meeting Schedule

Date		Activity
Week of February 22, 2021	Monday, Feb 22	Water Resources TWG 2
	Wednesday AM, Feb 24	Terrestrial and Botanical TWG 2
	Wednesday PM, Feb 24	Cultural and Tribal TWG 2
	Thursday, Feb 25	Recreation and Land Use TWG 2
Week of March 29, 2021	Monday, Mar 29	Water Resources TWG 3
	Wednesday AM, Mar 31	Terrestrial and Botanical TWG 3
	Wednesday PM, Mar 31	Cultural and Tribal TWG 3
	Thursday, Apr 1	Recreation and Land Use TWG 3

Due date for Study Plan Requests - February 5, 2021

How to Stay Involved

- Check the Project website for updates/news at www.sce.com/leevining
- 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 with questions carissa.shoemaker@erm.com



Thank you!