REC-2 RECREATION FACILITIES USE ASSESSMENT
FINAL TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

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

PREPARED FOR:

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON®
Energy for What's Ahead®

KERNVILLE, CALIFORNIA

July 2024

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
DCG	developed campground
DUCG	day use area adjacent to developed campground
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
ISR	Initial Study Report
KR3	Kern River No. 3
KRB	Kern River Boaters
NFKR	North Fork Kern River
Project	Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2290)
Q#	in reference to “Question” numbers
QA/QC	quality assurance and quality control
QR code	quick-response code
REC-2 Study	REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment Study
RSP	Revised Study Plan
SCE	Southern California Edison
SPD	Study Plan Determination
SQF	Sequoia National Forest

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Final Technical Memorandum provides the methods and analysis of field surveys associated with the *REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment Study* (REC-2 Study) in support of Southern California Edison (SCE) Kern River No. 3 (KR3) Hydroelectric Project (Project) relicensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2290. The REC-2 Study 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 approved the REC-2 Study Plan with modifications (FERC, 2022). Specifically, FERC recommended that SCE adjust the study area to include the 1.9-mile reach of the North Fork Kern River (NFKR) upstream of the FERC Project Boundary, install trail cameras to collect recreation use data at each site in the study area, increase the number of on-site intercept survey days, extend the survey period to include a full calendar year from January 2023 through December 2023, recruit and deploy English- and Spanish-speaking surveyors, and include the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) Sequoia National Forest (SQF) modifications as well as FERC's modifications to the recreation user survey.

SCE conducted the study for one full calendar year (April 2023 through March 2024) to capture summer, shoulder season (fall/spring) and winter recreation use in the Project Area.[1] Visitor intercept surveys, spot counts, and calibration counts were conducted on weekdays, weekends, and holiday weekends between April 2023 and March 2024. SCE filed an Interim Technical Memorandum as part of the Initial Study Report (ISR) on October 9, 2023 (SCE, 2023) and provided a summary of data collection efforts conducted between April 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, as well as a summary of variances to the FERC-approved REC-2 Study Plan.

Per FERC's February 1, 2024, request, SCE filed a summary of spot count and calibration count data collected from April 1 through November 30, 2023. The purpose of the filing was to provide FERC with the information to assess whether the calibration counts and additional spot counts adequately adjust for the data gaps resulting from the removal of the trail cameras and provide sufficient information to analyze the use of the recreation facilities in lieu of the proposed trail cameras (SCE, 2024b) (refer to SCE's ISR filing for additional information regarding this study variance and rationale for SCE's revised methodology [SCE, 2023]). On March 29, 2024, SCE filed an updated Interim Technical Memorandum that included preliminary results of the visitor intercept surveys from the peak summer-use period from Memorial Day, 2023, through Labor Day, 2023.

This Final Technical Memorandum supersedes the March Interim Technical Memorandum and provides the results for the full study period (April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024). The data provided in Sections 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 relates to this study period. As noted in SCE's January 9, 2024 response to ISR comments, SCE collected additional spot count and calibration data during the period of April 1, 2024 through May

[1] The geographic area comprised of the lands and waters within the FERC Project Boundary and those lands immediately adjacent to the FERC Project Boundary.

31, 2024 (SCE 2024a). The purpose of this additional data collection was to conduct a comparison with recreation use data collected during the April 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023, a period in which the NFKR experienced abnormally high flows and flooding, which resulted in the temporary closure of some recreation facilities within the study area. Section 5.4 provides a summary and comparison of the data collected and an analysis of the recreation use during these spring periods.

On May 30, 2024, FERC issued their Determination on Requests for Study Modifications and New Studies (FERC Accession No. 20240530-3030) in which FERC did not approve SCE's study variance pertaining to the installation and use of cameras to collect recreation use information. Instead, FERC recommended that SCE work with the SQF to install cameras at river access locations along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach[2] and above Fairview Dam to Johnsondale Bridge to capture: (1) use estimates including percent capacity at all river access locations; (2) activity-type estimates, specifically commercial vs. non-commercial boaters, including the type of watercrafts used. Refer to Section 7.0, *Outstanding Study Plan Elements*, regarding pending actions to complete this study element.

2.0 STUDY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of the REC-2 Study is to collect information on recreation use within the FERC Project Boundary and along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach, as well as those sites included in the approximately 1.9-mile reach upstream of the FERC Project Boundary to the Johnsondale Bridge.

The objectives of the REC-2 Study, as outlined in the REC-2 Study Plan (SCE, 2022), include:

- Evaluate recreation use at recreation sites within the FERC Project Boundary and along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach, including an assessment of the amount of recreation use each site receives (including percent of capacity) and the activities that occur at the site.
- Collect visitor feedback regarding their perception and experience at recreation facilities within the study area, including but not limited to facility condition, level of crowdedness, angling opportunities, and the scenic landscape.
- Estimate future recreational demand and needs, including the need for additional recreation facilities and access enhancements.
- Assess the consistency of current recreation opportunities with the laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines described in the *Land Management Plan for the Sequoia National Forest* (Forest Service, 2023).[3]

[2] The Fairview Dam Bypass Reach is defined as the approximate 16-mile bypass reach of the NFKR between Fairview Dam and the KR3 Powerhouse tailrace.

[3] The Forest Service has published a new management plan since the RSP and SPD has been issued. This study will review the new 2023 management plan in lieu of the 1988 Management Plan originally cited in the RSP.

3.0 STUDY AREA AND STUDY SITES

3.1. STUDY AREA

The study area and specific study sites include one SCE-owned, FERC-approved site (KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out) and 24 Forest Service-operated developed (formal) campgrounds, dispersed (informal) camping areas, day use areas, and trailheads within the FERC Project Boundary and along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach, including sites situated in the approximately 1.9-mile reach upstream of the FERC Project Boundary to the Johnsondale Bridge. The locations are listed below and shown in Figure 3.1-1.

3.2. RECREATION STUDY SITES

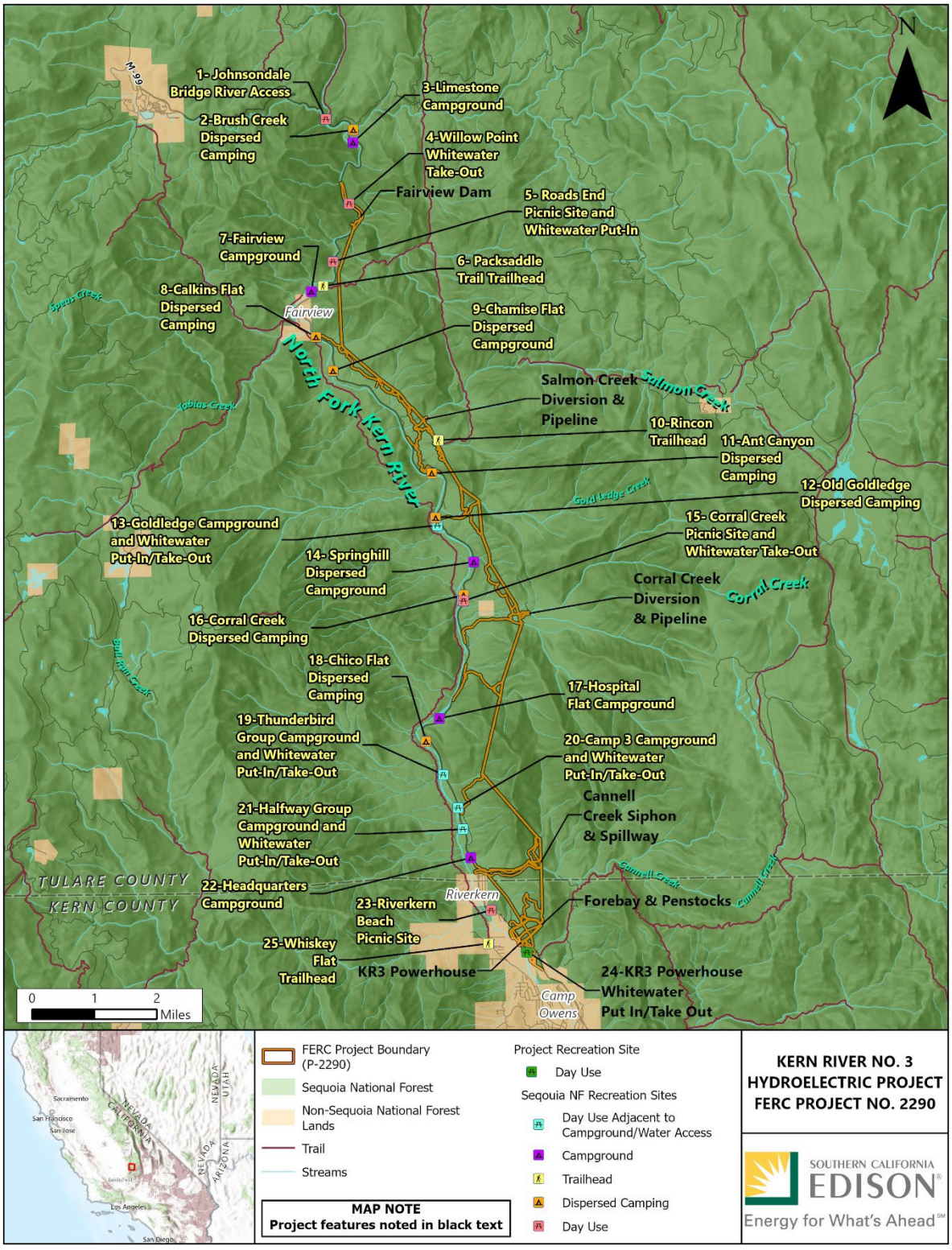
The 25 recreation study sites include 8 dispersed[4] camping areas, 4 developed campgrounds (DCGs),[5] 6 day use sites,[6] 4 day use area and adjacent developed campground (DUCG) sites, and 3 trailhead[7] sites. The majority of the Forest Service-operated sites (20 of 24) are located along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach, another is located within the FERC Project Boundary (Willow Point Whitewater Take-out), and three sites (Johnsondale Bridge River Access, Brush Creek Dispersed Camping, and Limestone Campground) are located within the approximately 1.9-mile reach upstream of the FERC Project Boundary. Table 3.2-1 provides a summary of the study area sites (upstream to downstream) and site type.

[4] Dispersed camping is available free of charge, year-round, but has little or no amenities, such as potable water, picnic tables, or fire pits; and trash or restroom services may only be seasonally available.

[5] DCGs require a fee and provide amenities such as potable water, picnic tables, fire pit/rings, trash receptacles, and restrooms.

[6] Day use sites are available free of charge and are open year-round. No permit or pass is required to use these sites.

[7] Trailhead sites are parking areas at the beginning of a trail or trail system.



FERC = Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; KR3 = Kern River No. 3; NF = National Forest

Figure 3.1-1. Recreation Study Sites within the Study Area.

Table 3.2-1. Recreation Study Sites

Site ID Number	Site Name	Site Type	Owned and Maintained
1	Johnsondale Bridge River Access	Day Use	SQF
2	Brush Creek Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	SQF
3	Limestone Campground	DCG	SQF
4	Willow Point Whitewater Take-out	Day Use	SQF
5	Roads End Picnic Site and Whitewater Put-in	Day Use	SQF
6	Packsaddle Trail Trailhead	Trailhead	SQF
7	Fairview Campground	DCG	SQF
8	Calkins Flat Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	SQF
9	Chamise Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	SQF
10	Rincon Trailhead	Trailhead	SQF
11	Ant Canyon Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	SQF
12	Old Goldledge Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	SQF
13	Goldledge Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	DUCG	SQF
14	Springhill Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	SQF
15	Corral Creek Picnic Site and Whitewater Take-out	Day Use	SQF
16	Corral Creek Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	SQF
17	Hospital Flat Campground	DCG	SQF
18	Chico Flat Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	SQF
19	Thunderbird Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	DUCG	SQF
20	Camp 3 Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	DUCG	SQF
21	Halfway Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	DUCG	SQF
22	Headquarters Campground	DCG	SQF
23	Riverkern Beach Picnic Site	Day Use	SQF
24	KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	Day Use (Project Recreation Site)	SCE
25	Whiskey Flat Trailhead	Trailhead	SQF

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use area adjacent to developed campground; SCE = Southern California Edison; SQF = Sequoia National Forest

4.0 METHODS

4.1. DATA COLLECTION PERIOD AND SAMPLING DAYS

Implementation of the REC-2 Study relied on a combination of data collection methodologies, including visitor intercept surveys, online surveys, spot counts, and calibration counts. The primary data collection efforts extended from April 2023 through March 2024. In addition, as proposed in the ISR Response to Comments, SCE conducted two additional weekday, two additional weekend, and one additional holiday spot and calibration counts during the April 2024 through May 2024 period.

SCE conducted intercept surveys and spot counts on 56 days, and calibration counts on 28 days during the April 2023 through March 2024 study period. During the April 2024 through May 2024 period, an additional five spot counts and five calibration counts were conducted for a total of 56 intercept survey days, 61 spot count days and 33 calibration count days (Table 4.1-1).

Table 4.1-1. Summary of Data Collection Days by Season and Type

Season	Study Time Period	Spot Count	Calibration Count	Intercept Survey Days
Spring	April 1, 2023 to May 26, 2023; March 1–31, 2024	8	6	8
Summer	May 27, 2023 to September 3, 2023	19	10	19
Fall	September 4, 2023 to November 30, 2023	13	6	13
Winter	December 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024	16	6	16
Spring 2024	April 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024	5	5	0
	Total	**61**	**33**	**56**

The visitor intercept survey sampling schedule included one weekday, one weekend day, and one holiday weekend day (as applicable) per month between April 2023 and March 2024 for a total of 33 survey days.[8] The holiday weekend day surveyed included one of the 3 days of the holiday weekend (Saturday and Sunday and either the Friday before or the Monday after) of Memorial Day (May 27 to 29, 2023), Juneteenth National Independence Day (June 17 to 19, 2023), Fourth of July (July 1 to 3, 2023), Labor Day (September 2 to 4, 2023), Thanksgiving (November 24 to 26, 2023), Christmas (December 23 to 25, 2023), New Year's Day (December 30, 2023, to January 1, 2024), Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 13 to 15, 2024), and President's Day (February 17 to 19, 2024). The weekday, weekend, and holiday sampling dates were selected

[8] In FERC's SPD, a total of 35 survey days are identified. When SCE implemented the changes requested from FERC in the SPD, the number of days added up to 33 days. However, as indicated, SCE conducted a total of 56 survey days during the study period.

randomly using R software (Version 4.2.2.; R Core Team, 2022), including one weekday, one weekend, and one holiday, as applicable, per month, as described above. As such, dates were entered into R as samples, and computer code was written to generate the random sampling date.

Following Forest Service SQF's request and subsequent decision to remove all trail cameras (see ISR study plan variances [SCE, 2023]*)* on May 24, 2023, SCE reviewed the study approach and revised the recreation use data collection to implement additional sampling days to include a spot count and a 2-hour calibration count. Intercept surveys were also conducted on these additional spot and calibration count days. A total of 23 days were added to the REC-2 Study.

On each of the additional sampling days, spot and calibration counts were conducted following a bus route method (Pollack et al., 1994) so that site use was counted at each recreation site at various times of the day. The starting time, recreation site, and the direction of travel (i.e., clockwise or counterclockwise) were selected randomly on the days of the spot count and calibration counts. The recreation sites were numbered 1 to 25, and a site number was selected randomly to begin each circuit. Each survey team was assigned recreation sites to visit, a start time, and direction of travel (clockwise or counterclockwise).

Table 4.1-2 summarizes the total number of intercept surveys, spot counts, and calibration counts conducted April 2023 through March 2024 by month, day type (weekday, weekend, and holiday) and by data collection type (intercept survey, spot count, and calibration count). In addition, as proposed in the ISR Response to Comments (SCE, 2024a), SCE conducted two additional weekday, two additional weekend, and one additional holiday spot and calibration counts during the April 2024 through May 2024 period. This resulted in a total of 61 spot counts and 33 calibration count days.

Table 4.1-2. Summary of Data Collection Days by Month and Type

Month	Day Type	Intercept Survey	Spot Count	Calibration Count [a]
April 2023	Weekday	1	1	1
	Weekend	1	1	1
	Holiday	0	0	0
May 2023	Weekday	1	1	1
	Weekend	1	1	1
	Holiday	1	1	1
June 2023	Weekday	2	2	1
	Weekend	2	2	1
	Holiday	2	2	1

Month	Day Type	Intercept Survey	Spot Count	Calibration Count [a]
July 2023	Weekday	2	2	1
	Weekend	2	2	1
	Holiday	2	2	1
August 2023	Weekday	2	2	1
	Weekend	2	2	1
	Holiday	0	0	0
September 2023	Weekday	2	2	1
	Weekend	2	2	1
	Holiday	2	2	1
October 2023	Weekday	2	2	1
	Weekend	2	2	1
	Holiday	0	0	0
November 2023	Weekday	2	2	1
	Weekend	2	2	1
	Holiday	1	1	0
December 2023	Weekday	2	2	1
	Weekend	2	2	1
	Holiday	2	2	0
January 2024	Weekday	2	2	1
	Weekend	2	2	1
	Holiday	1	1	0
February 2024	Weekday	2	2	1
	Weekend	2	2	1
	Holiday	1	1	0
March 2024	Weekday	2	2	1
	Weekend	2	2	1
	Holiday	0	0	0
April 2024	Weekday	0	1	1
	Weekend	0	1	1
	Holiday	0	0	0
May 2024	Weekday	0	1	1
	Weekend	0	1	1
	Holiday	0	1	1

Month	Day Type	Intercept Survey	Spot Count	Calibration Count [a]
Total	Weekday	22	24	14
	Weekend	22	24	14
	Holiday	12	13	5
Cumulative Total		**56**	**61**	**33**

[a] Shaded calibration counts were conducted for a 1-hour duration; the remaining counts were conducted for a 2-hour duration.

4.2. VISITOR SURVEYS

4.2.1. INTERCEPT SURVEYS

SCE conducted visitor intercept surveys at the recreation sites within the study area when the sites were open between April 2023 and March 2024. Concessionaire-hosted campgrounds are open seasonally, with day use sites, dispersed camping areas, and trailheads typically open year-round[9].

SCE deployed field technicians to implement the in-person visitor intercept survey. Field technicians approached recreationists at each recreation site and asked if they would be willing to be surveyed. All survey teams included a technician who was a bilingual English/Spanish speaker[10] and were equipped with a handheld tablet with the survey questions populated in the Survey123 application. Hard copies of the survey, in both English and Spanish, were also available for recreationists to follow along with during the survey if requested to assist in easing any language barriers. A copy of the survey is provided in Appendix A.

Field technicians remained at each recreation site for a total of 1 hour, conducting as many interviews with recreationists as time allowed. Upon arrival at a site, field technicians would begin in the parking area and seek out recreationists to participate in the survey. If time allowed and all recreationists had been interviewed in the parking area, the field technicians would rove the extent of the recreation site to seek out additional recreationists. If a recreationist declined to partake in the survey, the field technician would record the declined survey in the Survey123 application and a postcard-size version of the survey flyer (in English and Spanish) with an online access code was distributed (Appendix B).

[9] Per the SQF website, campground dates are as follows: Limestone Campground, April 1 to October 31; Fairview Campground, April 1 to November 30; Goldledge Campground, May 15 to September 15; Hospital Flat Campground, May 15 to September 15; Thunderbird Group Campground, May 15 to September 15; and Camp 3 Campground, May 15 to September 15. Some sites delayed opening or were temporarily closed in the spring of 2023 due to high spring flows that damaged the sites. Open and closure dates will be noted in the final report.

[10] Field technicians noted the primary language of all respondents. If the primary language was noted as Spanish, field technicians translated for respondents on an as-needed basis.

4.2.2. ONLINE SURVEYS

An online survey option was made available via a flyer with a quick-response code (QR code) advertised at all study sites. A link to the survey was also posted on the Project relicensing website (www.sce.com/kr3). Flyers were provided, in English and Spanish, with the QR code, to Forest Service to post at the SQF ranger district station on March 30, 2023, and again on May 8, 2023. In addition, SCE contacted local outfitters to post the survey link and/or flyer at the outfitters' businesses. SCE also posted the survey flyer at local businesses in Kernville. The online survey was available for a 12-month period (April 2023 to March 2024) in order to capture visitor use through the shoulder seasons (fall/spring) and the winter season. A copy of the flyer is available in Appendix B.

The online survey followed the same structure and format as the in-person visitor intercept surveys and collected recreation user demographics, activities, perception and experience, and feedback (conditions and needs). The data collected was used to document recreation use (e.g., type, volume, and location) and assist in the development of recreation use estimates for the Project Area, similar to the visitor intercept surveys.

4.3. SPOT AND CALIBRATION COUNTS

4.3.1. SPOT COUNTS

To document recreation use and use patterns, spot counts were conducted concurrently with the visitor intercept surveys on weekdays, weekends, and holidays (as applicable) monthly. Spot counts were conducted at day use sites, dispersed camping areas, trailheads and the day use portions of sites located adjacent to a DCG (see Section 3.2, *Recreation Study Sites*). Upon arrival at these locations, the field technician roamed the parking area and counted the number of vehicles and people observed. Spot counts were also conducted at DCGs. At the DCGs, the field technician roamed the campground counting the number of sites that were occupied.

Spot counts were conducted concurrently with the visitor intercept surveys, and therefore, sampling dates, start times, and direction of travel were selected using the methodology as noted in Section 4.1. Spot counts were conducted for a total of 56 days between the April 2023 through March 2024 study period. During each spot count, a field technician took approximately 5 to 15 minutes to record the following information: date, time, weather conditions, number of vehicles with and without trailers observed in the recreation site parking area, state of origin for each license plate (no other identifying information), number of visitors observed at the site, and type of recreation activities observed. Data were collected in the Survey123 application based on the spot count form developed for this study (Appendix C).

4.3.2. CALIBRATION COUNTS

Between April 1 and May 28, 2023, SCE conducted 1-hour calibration counts at recreation sites[11] in the study area one weekday, one weekend day, and one holiday weekend day (Memorial Day) in April and May. Calibration counts included recording the following information: number of people observed, observed activities, number of vehicles and trailers, and time in and time out of vehicles during the 1-hour count. Following Forest Service SQF's request and SCE's subsequent decision to remove all trail cameras (see ISR study plan variances [SCE, 2023]) on May 24, 2023, 2-hour calibration counts, and an additional spot count were added to the REC-2 Study for the study period of June 19, 2023, through March 31, 2024.[12]

During each calibration count, the field technician counted all vehicles in the parking area at the start and end of the shift. Throughout the calibration count, the technician recorded the time in and time out of all vehicles that entered and exited the parking area, the number of persons observed per vehicle (when a group was seen and could be associated with a vehicle in the parking area), and the recreation activities observed. This information was used to determine the average vehicle trip length at each recreation site and the average number of people per vehicle (or group size). Data were collected in the Survey123 application using the calibration count form developed for this study (Appendix D). For vehicles that were on site at the start of the shift or were still on site at the end of the shift, the following assumptions for the trip length were made based on best professional judgment: day use sites (4 hours), dispersed camping areas (24 hours), and trailheads (6 hours).

Refer to Section 4.1 for a discussion of the selection of sampling dates, start times, and directions. Additionally, dispersed camping areas were randomly selected to be surveyed either at the beginning or the end of the shift in order to collect both morning and evening data for these sites. SCE completed 5 1-hour calibration count days and 23 2-hour calibration count days during the period April 2023 through March 2024.[13]

4.4. QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALITY CONTROL MEASURES

All field data (spot count and calibration count data) and survey data (visitor intercept surveys and online surveys) collected as part of this study are subject to a rigorous multi-step quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) protocol to validate the dataset used in the recreation use analyses.

[11] DCGs were not included in calibration count data collection as the intent of a calibration count is to determine the site turnover rate. Use at DCGs will be summarized based on actual use records kept by the Forest Service, once provided.

[12] Data collected from April 2024 through May 2024 is included in Section 5.4, Comparison of Spring 2023 and Spring 2024 Recreation Use Data.

[13] As proposed in the ISR Response to Comments (SCE, 2024a), SCE conducted two additional weekday, two additional weekend, and one additional holiday weekend spot and calibration count during the April 2024 through May 2024 period.

The QA/QC protocol involves a multi-stage approach to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the data as follows:

- QC1 focused on verifying that all field data were properly recorded.
- QC2 included a detailed examination of the data to identify and address outliers or suspect values. Data were examined to identify erroneously repeated data, data with questionable validity, or data that contained suspect information otherwise not captured.
- QC3 entailed standardizing data formats and units, as well as more in-depth checks for erroneous data, spelling errors, etc. The QC3 process continued throughout the analysis.

4.5. SQF Developed Campground Visitation Data

SCE reached out to the SQF to obtain available visitor use records at the DCGs and the DCG portion of DUCGs within the study area. As of the date of this filing, no data has been received. If data becomes available, SCE will provide a summary of the data in a supplemental Technical Memorandum filing. SCE collected observations regarding recreation use at DCGs and the DCG portion of DUCGs during spot count and visitor intercept survey days in which technicians noted if a campsite appeared occupied (vehicle or camping equipment present at a site). These data are included in Section 5.2.3.

4.6. Current Recreation Use and Density (Parking Utilization) Estimates

For the day use sites and trailheads, recreation days were estimated using a combination of data from the visitor intercept surveys, online surveys, spot counts, and calibration counts using the following recreation day calculation (Pollock et al., 1994):[14]

Average Vehicle Count (by Season and Day Type from spot count data)

x **Average Group Size** (from visitor intercept survey data, online survey data, and/or calibration count data)

x **Recreation Day[15] Length** (12 hours assumed for day use and 24 hours assumed for overnight use)

x **Total Number of Days** (by Season and Day Type)

÷ **Average Trip Length** (from calibration count data, online survey data, and/or visitor intercept survey data)

= **Estimated Number of Recreation Days** (by Season and Day Type)

The estimates are presented as total recreation days by season, day type, and site type.

[14] DCGs were not included in this assessment. Use at DCGs is summarized in Section 5.2.3, *SQF Developed Campground Utilization*, based on actual use records kept by the Forest Service, if provided.

[15] As defined by FERC, a recreation day is each visit by a person to the study site for recreational purposes during any portion of a 24-hour period.

The recreation day estimates for the dispersed camping areas and DUCG sites were calculated separately to reflect the different lengths of time recreationists spend at these sites for camping (overnight use) versus day use activities. Average vehicle counts and average trip length were estimated based on the observed proportions of people camping. Recreation days were then summed across day types and seasons.

If the average vehicle, group size, or trip length data were not available for a specific site and day type (e.g., a calibration count was not conducted on a fall holiday, or no vehicles or people were observed at a specific site on a specific day type), data from the same site for a different day type in the same season was used. For example, if the average number of vehicles on holidays in fall was not available, the average number of vehicles from weekends in fall at the same site were used. The average group size from the visitor survey was used, unless it was not available, in which case the average number of people per vehicle from the calibration counts was used in the recreation day calculation.

The average length of stay, in hours, from the calibration counts was used in the recreation day calculation for the day use sites and trailheads, as well as for estimating the day use for the dispersed camping areas and DUCG sites. For the dispersed camping areas and campgrounds at DUCG sites, the average length of stay from the visitor surveys was used because the survey provided length of stay information in days.

The parking capacity for a recreation site was defined as the number of vehicles that can be parked at a recreation site at one time based on the number of available parking spaces associated with that site. Parking capacities for each site with a parking area were described in the REC-3 *Recreation Facility Condition Assessment Technical Memorandum* (Appendix E.2 of this License Application).[16] To determine the parking utilization (density analysis), the average number of vehicles observed on holiday and non-holiday weekends was calculated from the spot counts. This was divided by the available parking capacity. The formula for determining parking utilization is shown below.

$$\text{Parking utilization} = \left(\frac{Average\ Vehicles}{Parking\ Capacity}\right) \text{x } 100$$

Calibration and spot count data collected in April 2024 through May 2024 were reviewed and compared to the calibration and spot count data collected in April 2023 through May 2023 to evaluate any differences. The recreation day calculation and parking utilization estimates presented in Section 5.2 were based on the April 2023 through March 2024 data. The comparison of the 2023 and 2024 spring periods is provided in Section 5.4.

4.7. FUTURE RECREATION USE

Population estimates for 2013 to 2022 were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau for Kern County, California, Tulare County, California, and the state of California (U.S. Census Bureau, 2024). From the 2013 to 2022 population data, the 10-year average rate

[16] Site 1-Johnsondale Bridge River Access and Site 2-Brush Creek Dispersed Camping were not included in the REC-3 Study; however, as part of this analysis, parking capacity was estimated from Google Earth imagery.

of change in the population for each county and state was estimated. This rate of change was used to estimate the population projections for 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, and 2070 for Kern County, Tulare County, and the state of California. Future recreation days for 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, and 2070 were estimated by applying a weighted rate of change to the 2023 recreation days estimates; the rate of change was weighted by the proportion of survey respondents from Kern and Tulare Counties.

5.0 RESULTS

Study results are presented based on locations and type of recreation site. Sites 1 through 3 are located in the 1.9-mile reach upstream of the FERC Project Boundary. Sites 4 through 23 and Site 25 are located within the FERC Project Boundary (Site 4) and along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach (Sites 5 through 23 and site 25); Site 24 is a Project facility located within the FERC Project Boundary. Much of the data from Sites 4 through 25 are further divided into site types: (1) day use, (2) DCG, (3) dispersed camping, (4) DUCG, (5) trailhead, and (6) the FERC-approved KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out (Site 24).

5.1. VISITOR INTERCEPT AND ONLINE SURVEYS

The visitor surveys provide a variety of information for the study sites, including demographics, user experience, historical recreation use, aesthetics, angling experience, and user feedback. Table 5.1-1 identifies the number of visitor intercept and online surveys completed per season during the study period that were used for data analysis.

Table 5.1-1. Number of Visitor Intercept Surveys Conducted

Season	Study Time Period	Intercept Surveys	Online Surveys	Total
Spring	April 1, 2023 to May 26, 2023; March 1-31, 2024	184	3	187
Summer	May 27, 2023 to September 3, 2023	558	10	568
Fall	September 4, 2023 to November 30, 2023	298	15	313
Winter	December 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024	657	14	671
	Total	**1,697**	**42**	**1,739**

Between April 1, 2023, and March 2024, a total of 2,195 visitor intercept surveys were attempted. Of those, 347 visitors declined to participate in the survey and 151 were determined to be individuals who had previously completed the survey and not included in the final analysis, leading to a visitor intercept survey participation rate of approximately 79 percent, and a verified total of 1,697 completed intercept surveys. During the study period, a total of 42 online surveys were completed, for a combined total of 1,739 completed visitor surveys.

A total of 188 surveys were completed by survey respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3, and a total of 1,551 surveys were completed at Study Sites 4 through 25. All respondents

did not provide responses to each question; therefore, the total responses for each question may be less than the total number of completed surveys. The number of survey respondents that did not respond to a question and the number of responses received are provided for each question, as appropriate. The numbers provided in total rows and the associated percentages in the tables in Sections 5.1 and 5.2 do not include the counts from survey respondents that did not answer a question.

5.1.1. VISITOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Of the respondents at the study sites upstream of the FERC Project Boundary (Sites 1 through 3) that provided their zip code (n=96), 59.4 percent of respondents indicated they were from California, 31.3 percent indicated they lived internationally, and the remaining 9.4 percent were from Alaska, Washington, Colorado, Oregon, Pennsylvania, or Virginia. Of the respondents at the remainder of the study sites (Sites 4 through 25) that provided their zip code (n=595), 70.3 percent of respondents indicated they were from California, 21.5 percent indicated they lived internationally, and the remaining 8.2 percent were from Washington, Alaska, Oregon, Nevada, Texas, Minnesota, Arizona, Illinois, Nebraska, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Oklahoma, or from an unknown zip code (Table 5.1-2).

Table 5.1-2. Respondents Indicated Home Zip Code (Q1)

State	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25	
	Count	%	Count	%
California	57	59.4	418	70.3
International	30	31.3	128	21.5
Alaska	3	3.1	13	2.2
Washington	2	2.1	10	1.7
Unknown	0	0	7	1.2
Texas	0	0	6	1
Nevada	0	0	2	0.3
Oregon	1	1	2	0.3
New York	0	0	2	0.3
Arizona	0	0	1	0.2
Illinois	0	0	1	0.2
Minnesota	0	0	1	0.2
Nebraska	0	0	1	0.2
New Jersey	0	0	1	0.2
Ohio	0	0	1	0.2
Oklahoma	0	0	1	0.2
Pennsylvania	1	1	0	0

State	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25	
	Count	%	Count	%
Virginia	1	1	0	0
Colorado	1	1	0	0
Total	**96**	**100**	**595**	**100**
No Answer	92		956	

When asked how far they traveled to get to the recreation site, the majority of respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 (55.1 percent) indicated they had traveled greater than or equal to 101 miles, and 23.3 percent indicated they had traveled less than 50 miles to visit the site (Table 5.1-3). When asked how far they traveled to get to the recreation site, the majority of respondents at Study Sites 4 through 25 (49.8 percent) indicated they had traveled greater than or equal to 101 miles, and 19.3 percent indicated they had traveled less than 50 miles to visit the site (Table 5.1-3).

Table 5.1-3. Summary of Distance Traveled to Site (Q2)

Distance Traveled	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
0-25 miles	12	6.8	98	6.7
26-50 miles	29	16.5	184	12.6
51-75 miles	11	6.3	177	12.1
76-100 miles	27	15.3	276	18.9
≥101 miles	97	55.1	728	49.8
Total	**176**	**100**	**1,463**	**100**
No Answer	12		88	

Of those surveyed at Study Sites 1 through 3 that provided their age (n=159), the majority of the respondents ranged from 30 to 59 years old (71.7 percent), followed by 23.3 percent less than 30 years old and 5 percent greater than 60 years old. Of those surveyed at Study Sites 4 through 25 that provided their age (n=1,353), the majority of the respondents ranged from 30 to 59 years old (71.8 percent) with 20 percent less than 30 years and 8.1 percent greater than 60 years old (Table 5.1-4).

Table 5.1-4. Respondents Indicated Age (Q3)

Age	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<16 years	0	0	1	0.1
16-19 years	1	0.6	10	0.7
20-29 years	36	22.6	260	19.2
30-39 years	48	30.2	389	28.8
40-49 years	42	26.4	387	28.6
50-59 years	24	15.1	196	14.5
60-69 years	8	5	99	7.3
≥70 years	0	0	11	0.8
Total	**159**	**100**	**1,353**	**100**
No Answer	29		198	

Table 5.1-5 summarizes responses received from questions 4 and 5 that asked how many people in each party were more than 18 years of age and how many people in each party were under 18 years of age. The group size was calculated as the sum of the number of people per party above and below 18 years of age. The overall average group size at study sites 1 through 3 was 3.3 people with a median of 2 people and a maximum group size of 27 people; approximately 78.9 percent of the people were more than 18 years, and the remaining 21.1 percent were under 18. The overall average group size at Study Sites 4 through 25 was 3.5 people, with a median of 2 people, and a maximum group size of 58 people; approximately 80 percent of the people were more than 18 years, and the remaining 20 percent were less than 18.

Table 5.1-5. Summary of Respondents Group Size and Age Category (Q4/Q5)

Age Group	Count	Group Size				Total People
		Minimum	Average	Median	Maximum	
Study Sites 1–3						
≥18 years	188	1	2.6	2	20	494
<18 years	187	0	0.7	0	7	132
Total		**1**	**3.3**	**2**	**27**	**626**
Study Sites 4–25						
≥18 years	1,551	1	2.8	2	58	4,359
<18 years	1,536	0	0.7	0	36	1,077
Total		**1**	**3.5**	**2**	**58**	**5,436**

Respondents were asked to indicate what gender, if any, they identified as. At Study Sites 1 through 3 (n=168), 72 percent of respondents reported being male and 28 percent of respondents reported being female (Table 5.1-6). At Study Sites 4 through 25 (n=1,462), 64.8 percent of respondents reported being male and 35 percent of respondents reported being female, and the remaining 0.2 percent reported their gender as other or indicated that they prefer not to answer.

Table 5.1-6. Respondents Indicated Gender Identification (Q6)

Gender	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25 [a]	
	Count	%	Count	%
Female	47	28	511	35
Male	121	72	947	64.8
Other	0	0	1	0.1
Prefer not to answer	0	0	3	0.2
Total	**168**	**100**	**1,462**	**100**
No Answer	20		89	

[a] Total percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

When asked to indicate their ethnicity, 62.5 percent of respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 reported being White, while 21.4 percent of respondents reported being Spanish/Latino, and the remaining respondents reported ethnicity of Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, or Other (Table 5.1-7). At Study Sites 4 through 25, 62.4 percent of respondents reported being White, 28.5 percent of respondents reported being Spanish/Latino, and the remaining respondents reported ethnicity of Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, Native American, or Other.

Table 5.1-7. Respondents Indicated Ethnicity (Q7)

Ethnicity	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25	
	Count	%	Count	%
Asian/Pacific Islander	15	8.9	54	3.7
Black	2	1.2	13	0.9
Native American	0	0	10	0.7
Spanish/Latino	36	21.4	417	28.5
White	105	62.5	913	62.4
Other	10	6	57	3.9
Total Responses	**168**	**100**	**1,464**	**100**
No Answer	20		87	

When asked to indicate their total household income, the majority of respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 (56.3 percent) reported their total household income as being between $40,000 and $80,000, 23 percent reported their income as less than $40,000, and the remaining 20.7 percent indicated their total household income was greater than or equal to $81,000 (Table 5.1-8). The majority of the respondents at Study Sites 4 through 25 (62.6 percent) reported their total household income as being between $40,000 and $80,000 or less, 20.2 percent reported their income as less than $40,000, and the remaining 17.3 percent indicated their total household income was greater than or equal to $81,000.

Table 5.1-8. Respondents Indicated Household Income (Q8)

Household Income	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25	
	Count	%	Count	%
< $40k	31	23	257	20.2
$40k-80k	76	56.3	797	62.6
≥ $81k	28	20.7	220	17.3
Total	**135**	**100**	**1,274**	**100**
No Answer	53		277	

The majority of the respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3, (70.1 percent), and at Study Sites 4 through 25 (67.1 percent) indicated they were employed full-time (Table 5.1-8). At Study Sites 4 through 25, a similar number of respondents reported being employed part-time (9.6 percent) or retired (9.7 percent).

Table 5.1-9. Employment Status of Survey Respondents (Q9)

Employment Status	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25	
	Count	%	Count	%
Full-time	101	70.1	854	67.1
Homemaker	5	3.5	33	2.6
Part-time	15	10.4	122	9.6
Retired	9	6.3	123	9.7
Self-employed	4	2.8	66	5.2
Student	5	3.5	30	2.4
Unemployed	4	2.8	43	3.4
Other	1	0.7	2	0.2
Total Responses	**144**	**100**	**1,273**	**100**
No Answer	44		278	

When asked what their primary occupation was, if employed, the majority of the respondents indicated their occupation was related to construction/mechanics/trades, health and wellness, education, food/service industry, or retail (Table 5.1-10).

Table 5.1-10. Respondents Indicated Occupation (Q10)

Occupation	Count	%
Construction/Mechanic/Trade	258	21
Healthcare/Wellness	147	12
Education	107	8.7
Food/Drink/Service Industry	103	8.4
Retail	92	7.5
Corporate/Administration/Management	72	5.9
STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)	62	5.1
Home/Yard Services	51	4.2
Maintenance/Cleaning	45	3.7
Miscellaneous	40	3.3
Transportation	40	3.3
Retired	35	2.9
Finance	30	2.4
Sales	28	2.3
Municipal/State/Federal Worker	27	2.2
Law/Legal/Security	25	2
Homemaker	20	1.6
Caregiver	19	1.5
Entertainment/Hospitality	19	1.5
Military	7	0.6
Total	**1,227**	**100**
No Answer	512	

5.1.2. Current Trip Information and Experience

Table 5.1-11 shows what type of day the respondents arrived at the recreation site by site type. For respondents arriving at Study Sites 1 through 3, 44.1 percent indicated arriving on a weekend, followed by weekdays (36.7 percent), and the remaining 19.1 percent arrived on a holiday. At Study Sites 4 through 25, 38.8 percent of respondents indicated arriving on a weekday, followed by weekends (33.7 percent), and the remaining

27.5 percent arrived on a holiday. At the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out, 44 percent of respondents arrived on the weekend, and 26 percent and 30 percent arrived on holidays and weekdays, respectively.

Table 5.1-11. Summary of Respondents Date of Arrival by Month and Type of Day per Site Type (Q11)

Type of Day	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Number of Responses per Site Type						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
Holiday	36	19.1	63	47	163	78	54	22	427	27.5
Weekday	69	36.7	88	60	271	99	59	25	602	38.8
Weekend	83	44.1	76	32	224	94	59	37	522	33.7
Total	**188**	**100**	**227**	**139**	**658**	**271**	**172**	**84**	**1,551**	**100**

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Respondents were asked to indicate if the site they were surveyed at was their primary destination. Of those surveyed at Study Sites 1 through 3, 71.1 percent stated the site they were visiting was their primary destination for their trip. At Study Sites 4 through 25, 72.1 percent of those surveyed indicated the site they were visiting was their primary destination for their trip (Table 5.1-12). Approximately 74 percent of respondents at the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out reported that it was their primary destination.

Table 5.1-12. Percentage of Respondents Indicating They Were or Were Not Surveyed at Their Primary Destination (Q12)

Response	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Number of Responses per Site Type						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
No Answer	46		48	42	153	73	26	14		
Yes	101	71.1	117	74	356	147	115	52	**861**	**72.1**
No	41	28.9	62	23	149	51	31	18	**334**	**27.9**
Total	**142**	**100**							**1,195**	**100**

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

In order to estimate the length of time recreationists were on site, respondents were asked how many days they had been on this recreation trip, including today, and how many days they expected their trip to last. If recreationists were on site for less than one day, it was recorded that they had been on their recreation trip for one day. The average number of days spent at Study Sites 1 through 3 was 1.8 days with a median of 1 day, and the maximum length of stay was 6 days (Table 5.1-13). At Study Sites 4 through 25, the average number of days spent at a site was 2.1 days with a median of 1 day, and the maximum length of stay was 40 days. The longest lengths of stay (2.2 days to 3 days, on average) were at the DCGs, dispersed camping areas, and DUCGs. Recreationists at the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out were on site for 1.3 days, on average.

Table 5.1-13. Statistical Summary of Length of Stay (Days) by Site Type (Q13/Q14)

Responses	Study Sites 1–3	Study Sites 4–25						
		Length of Stay by Site Type						Count
	Count	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	
# Responses	188	227	139	658	271	172	84	1,551
Minimum Days	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Average Days	1.8	1.7	3	2.3	2.2	1.3	1.3	2.1
Median Days	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	1
Maximum Days	6	11	11	40	10	6	3	40

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Respondents were asked to indicate their primary reason for selecting the recreation site (Table 5.1-14). At Study Sites 1 through 3, 24.3 percent of respondents indicated their primary reason for selecting the site was scenery or views, and 20.8 percent stated their primary reason was fishing. At Study Sites 4 through 25, 16.9 percent of respondents indicated their primary reason for selecting the site was scenery or views, followed by 14.2 percent stating fishing and 10 percent stating camping. The most common primary reason respondents selected the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out site was fishing; other responses included the solitude and peace of the site, boating, scenery, and river access.

Survey respondents were asked what their primary recreation activity was that day. The most popular primary activity of respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 was camping (26.6 percent) followed by fishing (24.5 percent), and hiking/walking/trail use (17.9 percent) (Table 5.1-15). At Study Sites 4 through 25, respondents indicated their primary activities were camping (39 percent), fishing (20.4 percent), and hiking/walking/trail use (13.7 percent) (Table 5.1-15). Those who indicated camping as their primary activity were surveyed at all site types. Most respondents (64 percent) at the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out indicated their primary activity was fishing.

Survey respondents were also asked what secondary activities were participated in and were able to indicate as many activities as applied. The top three secondary activities at Study Sites 1 through 3 were relaxing (65 percent), viewing scenery (55.2 percent), and scenic driving and hiking/walking/trail use (28.4 percent each) (Table 5.1-16). At Study Sites 4 through 25, the top three activities were relaxing (66.6 percent), viewing scenery (44.1 percent), and picnicking (33.3 percent) (Table 5.1-16).

Table 5.1-14. Respondents Primary Reason for Selecting Site Location (Q15)

Primary Reason for Selecting Site Location	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Number of Responses per Site Type						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
Availability	3	1.7	1	3	6	9	1	0	20	1.5
Biking	1	0.6	0	0	2	0	5	0	7	0.5
Boating	0	0	7	0	1	4	0	6	18	1.3
Camping	8	4.6	4	24	87	21	1	0	137	10
Check out site/ Quick Stop	6	3.5	11	1	28	10	10	0	60	4.4
Day Use	3	1.7	4	0	2	2	0	1	9	0.7
Exercise	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	0.4
Family Trip	4	2.3	1	2	9	5	0	2	19	1.4
Fishing	36	20.8	43	4	56	57	0	35	195	14.2
Fishing/Camping	0	0	1	1	14	9	0	3	28	2
Frequent Visitor	3	1.7	3	10	28	10	5	0	56	4.1
Hiking/Walk/Run	13	7.5	7	1	15	2	101	2	128	9.3
Holiday/Vacation/ Special Occasion	4	2.3	4	1	5	5	2	2	19	1.4
Like the Site/Area	6	3.5	7	6	22	8	1	3	47	3.4
Location	1	0.6	2	4	4	6	8	3	27	2
Misc.	9	5.2	7	6	23	6	3	3	48	3.5
Picnicking	3	1.7	4	0	5	1	0	0	10	0.7
Recommendation	6	3.5	1	4	7	4	2	0	18	1.3

Primary Reason for Selecting Site Location	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Number of Responses per Site Type						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
Restrooms	7	4	7	2	30	7	0	0	46	3.4
River Access	9	5.2	26	14	60	24	5	4	133	9.7
Scenery/Views	42	24.3	50	22	112	31	13	4	232	16.9
Spacious/Solitude/ Peaceful	9	5.2	12	9	59	20	0	6	106	7.7
Total Responses	**173**		**202**	**114**	**575**	**241**	**163**	**74**	**1,369**	
No Answer	15		25	25	83	30	9	10	182	

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Table 5.1-15. Respondents Primary Recreation Activity (Q16a)

Primary Activity	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Primary Activity per Site Type (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
Biking	1	0.5	1	0	4	1	10	0	16	1.1
Camping	49	26.6	25	105	337	118	4	2	591	39
Fishing	45	24.5	57	9	103	86	1	54	310	20.4
Other	4 [a]	2.2	13	3	20	9	2	0	47 [b]	3.1
Photography/ Painting	5	2.7	7	1	8	2	0	1	19	1.3
Picnicking	8	4.3	25	1	23	4	0	3	56	3.7
Relaxing	18	9.8	48	5	51	19	4	8	135	8.9
Scenic Driving	3	1.6	3	2	10	4	2	2	23	1.5
Hiking/Walking/ Trail Use	33	17.9	16	4	39	8	138	2	207	13.7
Viewing Scenery	17	9.2	18	3	38	9	3	4	75	4.9
Viewing Wildlife	1	0.5	1	0	5	0	2	2	10	0.7
Whitewater Boating/Rafting	0	0	8	0	5	6	2	6	27	1.8
Total Responses	**184**	**100**	**222**	**133**	**643**	**266**	**168**	**84**	**1,516**	**100**
No Answer	4		5	6	15	5	4	0	35	

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

[a] Restroom, hunting

[b] Restroom, swimming, checking their vehicle, just a quick stop/visiting, trash removal, being lost and recycling

Table 5.1-16. Respondents Secondary Recreation Activities (Q16b)

Secondary Activity	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Secondary Activity per Site Type (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
Biking	5	2.7	4	4	13	13	8	0	42	2.8
Camping	19	10.4	11	12	36	21	5	4	89	5.9
Fishing	13	7.1	17	21	48	17	2	0	105	6.9
Other	5 [a]	2.7	6	4	20	8	2	1	41 [b]	2.7
Photography/Painting	23	12.6	28	14	78	40	14	5	179	11.8
Picnicking	49	26.8	67	67	243	97	10	22	506	33.3
Relaxing	119	65	132	103	464	178	82	52	1,011	66.6
Scenic Driving	52	28.4	65	15	149	52	29	11	321	21.1
Hiking / Walking / Trail Use	52	28.4	56	55	191	85	15	16	418	27.5
Viewing Scenery	101	55.2	111	40	276	119	91	33	670	44.1
Viewing Wildlife	50	27.3	80	29	158	76	53	22	418	27.5
Whitewater Boating/Rafting	6	3.3	4	6	10	9	0	0	29	1.9
Total Responses	**183**		**226**	**134**	**652**	**266**	**160**	**81**	**1,519**	
No Answer	5		1	5	6	5	12	3	32	

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

[a] Swimming, playing sports/games, using restroom, Whiskey Flat Days.

[b] Using the restroom, swimming, playing sports/games, organizing their vehicle, just a quick stop/visit, throwing away trash, recycling, working, and Whiskey Flat Days

Respondents were asked if the flows in the NFKR affected their ability to participate in a water-related activity (Table 5.1-17). Of the 141 respondents who responded to question 17 at Study Sites 1 through 3, approximately 68.1 percent indicated that the flow did not affect their planned water-related activities. Approximately 8.5 percent said the flow was too high, and 2.1 percent said that it was too low. Of the 1,150 respondents who responded to question 17 at Study Sites 4 through 25, approximately 67.6 percent indicated that the flow did not affect their planned water-related activities. Approximately 7 percent said the flow was too high, 2.8 percent said that it was too low, and 1 percent indicated that flows affected their planned water-related activities in other ways. Other ways noted were that the flow was just right and that wildlife along the rapids were minimal due to low flow. Five respondents at the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out stated that their water-related activity was affected by high flows.

Table 5.1-17. Effect of Flows on Activity (Q17)

Flow Effect	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Flow Effect per Site Type (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
No Answer	47		61	50	157	84	32	17	401	
Did not Participate in Water-Related Activity	30	21.3	36	20	104	27	52	10	249	21.7
No Effect	96	68.1	117	54	350	124	82	50	777	67.6
Yes High	12	8.5	9	10	30	23	3	5	80	7
Yes Low	3	2.1	4	4	12	10	2	0	32	2.8
Yes Other	0	0	0	1	5	3	1	2	12	1
Total Responses	**141**	**100**	166	89	501	187	140	67	1,150	**100**

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

When asked to identify their activity level, respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 indicated an activity level of moderate (79.3 percent), followed by low (11.6 percent), and high (9.1 percent) (Table 5.1-18). Respondents at study Sites 4 through 25 indicated an activity level of moderate (71.4 percent), followed by low (15.5 percent), and high (13.1 percent) (Table 5.1-18).

Table 5.1-18. Respondents Indicated Activity Level (Q18)

Activity Level	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Activity Level per Site Type (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
No Answer	24		18	12	45	21	9	11	116	
High	15	9.1	24	19	72	35	29	9	188	13.1
Low	19	11.6	38	20	110	44	9	2	223	15.5
Moderate	130	79.3	147	88	431	171	125	62	1,024	71.4
Total Responses	**164**	**100**	**209**	**127**	**613**	**250**	**163**	**73**	**1,435**	**100**

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Respondents were asked to identify how much money they expected to spend or had spent in the local area during their entire trip (Table 5.1-19). The average amount spent per trip by survey respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 was $369, and the median amount spent was $250. For the respondents at Study Sites 4 through 25, the average and median amount spent was $288 and $230, respectively. Based on the data collected, on average, people who visited the DCGs spent more during their trip than any other site type.

Table 5.1-19. Respondents Trip Expenditures (Q19)

Responses	Study Sites 1–3	Study Sites 4–25						
		Respondents Reported Trip Expenditure						Count
	Count	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	
Number of Responses	187	227	139	656	271	172	84	1549
Minimum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mean	$369	$300	$347	$302	$312	$170	$210	$288
Median	$250	$275	$300	$250	$300	$146	$153	$230
Maximum	$10,000	$3,000	$2,000	$6,000	$2,000	$850	$1,000	$6,000

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Respondents were asked how they would rate their overall satisfaction or dissatisfaction with their recreation experience that day on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating very

dissatisfied and 5 indicating very satisfied. Respondents were also given a list of categories and asked to rate the importance of each to the overall quality of their recreation experience on this trip, with 1 being unimportant and 5 being very important. At Study Sites 1 through 3, respondent average satisfaction ratings ranged between 3.9 for adequacy of site access for persons with disabilities and 4.8 for the overall satisfaction of the trip, indicating that respondents were satisfied to very satisfied across all categories. The overall importance rating for all experience categories was above 4.0, indicating that all of the categories are important or very important to the respondents (Table 5.1-20). At Study Sites 4 through 25, respondents' satisfaction ratings ranged between 3.8 for adequacy of site access for persons with disabilities and 4.7 for the overall satisfaction of the trip, indicating that respondents were satisfied to very satisfied across all categories. The overall importance rating for all experience categories was above 4.0, indicating that all of the categories are important or very important to the respondents (Table 5.1-21). At KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out (Site 24) the average ratings ranged between 4.0 for adequacy of site access for persons with disabilities and access to restrooms/showers/drinking water to 4.6 for their overall satisfaction of the trip.

Table 5.1-20. Average Overall Satisfaction and Importance Ratings of Respondents at Study Sites 1–3 (Q20)

Category	Count	Mean Rating [a]	Mean Overall Importance Rating [b]
1. Overall satisfaction of your trip	185	4.8	4.8
2. Satisfaction of primary activity, as listed above in Q16	187	4.4	4.4
3. Cost of facility access fees	173	4.4	4.4
4. River access	186	4.3	4.3
5. Number of people encountered/crowdedness	187	4.4	4.4
6. Available parking when you arrived	188	4.5	4.5
7. Feeling of safety	186	4.5	4.5
8. Adequacy of site access for persons with disabilities	176	3.9	4.0
9. Scenery at this site/area	186	4.7	4.6
10. Maintenance (physical condition) of facilities	185	4.1	4.2
11. Cleanliness of facilities	185	4.2	4.4
12. Access to restroom/shower/drinking water	185	4.1	4.2
13. Informational/educational opportunities	179	4.2	4.1
14. Flows in the river	185	4.1	4.0

[a] Respondents rated their overall satisfaction or dissatisfaction with their recreation experience that day on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 = very dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, 3= neutral, 4=satisfied, and 5 = very satisfied.
[b] Respondents rated the importance of each category to the overall quality of their recreation experience that day on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being unimportant and 5 being very important.

Table 5.1-21. Average Overall Satisfaction and Importance Ratings of Respondents at Study Sites 4–25 (Q20)

Category	Count	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Mean Rating [a]	Mean Overall Importance Rating [b]
1. Overall satisfaction of your trip	1,542	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.7
2. Satisfaction of primary activity, as listed above in Q16	1,540	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
3. Cost of facility access fees	1,359	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4
4. River access	1,520	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.5	4.2	4.2
5. Number of people encountered/ crowdedness	1,531	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.3
6. Available parking when you arrived	1,528	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.4
7. Feeling of safety	1,530	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6
8. Adequacy of site access for persons with disabilities	1,474	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.8	4.0
9. Scenery at this site/area	1,531	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.6
10. Maintenance (physical condition) of facilities	1,506	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.1
11. Cleanliness of facilities	1,507	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.3
12. Access to restroom/shower/ drinking water	1,495	3.8	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.6	4.0	3.9	4.0
13. Informational/educational opportunities	1,505	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.1
14. Flows in the river	1,519	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.1	4.1

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

[a] Respondents rated their overall satisfaction or dissatisfaction with their recreation experience that day on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 = very dissatisfied, 2 = dissatisfied, 3 = neutral, 4 = satisfied, and 5 = very satisfied.

[b] Respondents rated the importance of each category to the overall quality of their recreation experience that day on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being unimportant and 5 being very important.

5.1.3. PAST RECREATION TRIPS

Respondents were asked to indicate the number of times they visited the other recreation sites within the study area in the last 12 months, the number of times they visited the sites (Table 5.1-22), and the primary reason for their visits (Table 5.1-23). The respondents that answered “other” noted they had visited River’s Edge in summer, Trail of 100 Giants in the spring, and all of the sites in the fall. Overall, the results indicate that all site types are visited throughout the year. On average, the number of visits to Study Sites 1 through 3 ranged from 0.4 visits to 1.7 visits in the different seasons (Table 5.1-22). The total annual average number of visits and amount of time on-site were 4.8 visits and 6.2 days, respectively. The most common responses to the reason for visiting the site were relaxing, viewing scenery, fishing, viewing wildlife, and scenic driving (Table 5.1-23). For Study Sites 4 through 25, the total annual average number of visits was highest for trailheads (17.1 visits) and the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out (10.4 visits) and ranged between 3.2 visits to 5.9 visits for the other site types (Table 5.1-22). The average number of days on-site ranged from 6 days at the dispersed camping areas to 13.6 days at trailheads. The most common reasons for visiting the sites were relaxing, viewing scenery, hiking/walking/trail use, camping, and fishing (Table 5.1-23).

Table 5.1-22. Average Number of Visits by Season and Time On-Site in Last 12 Months (Q21a)

Recreation Site/ Site Type	Count	Average Number of Visits				Total Annual Average Number of Visits	Annual Average Number of Days On-Site
		Spring (March–May)	Summer (June–August)	Fall (September–November)	Winter (December–February)		
Visits to Sites 1–3	100	1.4	1.6	1	0.9	4.8	6.2
Site 1	77	1.5	1.6	1	1	5	6
Site 2	9	0.9	1	1.3	0.4	3.7	8.1
Site 3	21	0.6	1.7	0.5	0.4	3.1	4.2
Visits to Sites 4–25	200	2.9	3.2	2.4	1.8	10.3	11.3
Day Use	64	1.6	1.8	1.2	0.8	5.3	7.3
DCG	15	0.8	1.4	1.5	0.9	4.6	7.1
Dispersed Camping	48	1	1.3	0.6	0.4	3.2	6
DUCG	28	1.8	2.7	1	0.5	5.9	7.6
Trailhead	61	4.7	4.8	4.4	3.3	17.1	13.6
KR3 PH	26	3	2.9	2	2.5	10.4	12.8
Other	4	0.3	1.3	0.5	0	2	7

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Table 5.1-23. Reason for Visit to Other Recreation Sites Last 12 Months (Q21b)

Reason for Visit	Study Sites 1–3 (n=100)		Study Sites 4–25 (n=200)	
	Count	%	Count	%
Biking	5	5	14	7
Camping	24	24	62	31
Fishing	46	46	58	29
Other	2	2	1	0.5
Photography/Painting	13	13	24	12
Picnicking	23	23.	50	25
Relaxing	61	61	118	59
Scenic Driving	34	34	55	27.5
Hiking / Walking / Trail Use	40	40	99	49.5
Viewing Scenery	57	57	109	54.5
Viewing Wildlife	35	35	52	26
Whitewater Boating/Rafting	5	5	15	7.5

Note: Respondents were able to select more than one reason for their visit.

Respondents were asked whether they had visited the area between the Fairview Dam and the KR3 Powerhouse in the last 12 months more, less, or about the same as the respondent normally would. The majority of respondents at all study sites indicated they visited about the same number of times as usual (67.6 percent at Study Sites 1 through 3 and 72.8 percent at Study Sites 4 through 25) (Table 5.1-24). Common responses for the primary reason for the change in visitation or the same level of visitation were that it was an annual trip, that they frequently visit the site, that they like the site, it was their first visit, they infrequently visit the site, fishing, being busy, from out of town, camping, trail use, scenery, and were just checking out the site.

Table 5.1-24. Change in Visitation Last 12 Months (Q22)

Frequency of Visit to the Area	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Percent Change in Visitation Last 12 Months per Site Type						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
No Answer	46	--	37	34	105	48	16	9	249	--
More	12	8.5	11	2	35	23	14	5	90	6.9
Less	34	23.9	50	17	117	50	22	8	264	20.3
Same	96	67.6	129	86	401	150	120	62	948	72.8

Frequency of Visit to the Area	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Percent Change in Visitation Last 12 Months per Site Type						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
Total Responses	**142**	**100**	**190**	**105**	**553**	**223**	**156**	**75**	**1,302**	**100**

-- = not applicable; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

5.1.4. SURROUNDING LANDSCAPES

Respondents were asked to rate the scenic quality of the NFKR area in general on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating very poor and 5 indicating very good. The mean scenic quality rating at Study Sites 1 through 3 was 4.7 (between good and very good); the individual ratings were all between neutral and very good (Table 5.1-25). The mean scenic quality rating for Study Sites 4 through 25 ranged between 4.6 and 4.7 (between good and very good). All of the ratings at the DUCG and at KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out were neutral or higher. Individual ratings for the other site types ranged from poor to very good. Those who rated the NFKR area's scenic quality as very poor or poor noted this was due to poor river flow, poor views, litter, low water, and impacts from fires.

Table 5.1-25. Respondents Rating of Scenic Quality (Q23)

Scenic Quality Rating	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Rating of Scenic Quality by Site Type (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
Mean	4.7	--	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	--
Median	5	--	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	--
No Answer	1	--	4	8	19	6	5	3	45	--
1 Very Poor	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.1
2 Poor	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	4	0.3
3 Neutral	3	1.6	7	3	21	9	7	4	51	3.4
4 Good	50	26.7	58	45	183	88	45	27	446	29.6
5 Very Good	134	71.7	157	82	432	168	114	50	1,003	66.6
Total Responses	**187**	**100**	**223**	**131**	**639**	**265**	**167**	**81**	**1,506**	**100**

-- = not applicable; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Respondents were asked to identify the scenic feature that most attracted them to this area of the NFKR (Table 5.1-26). A similar number of recreationists at Study Sites 1 through 3 indicated that the feature that most attracted them to the area was general scenery (46.7 percent) or flows in the NFKR (44 percent). Other scenic features included fish, the view, the river, and the bridge. For Study Sites 4 through 25, 52.8 percent of respondents indicated that flows in the NFKR was the feature that most attracted them to the area, and 42.3 percent responded that general scenery most attracted them. Scenic features identified as other included viewing wildlife, wildflowers, the trail, and spacious camping areas. Approximately 76 percent of respondents at the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out indicated that the scenic feature that most attracted them to the area was flows in the NFKR.

Table 5.1-26. Respondents Identified Key Scenic Features (Q24)

Rating Factor	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Identified Key Scenic Feature per Site Type (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
No Answer	6	--	11	7	24	14	5	4	65	--
General scenery such as rock outcrops, mountains and valleys	85	46.7	94	57	281	91	90	15	628	42.3
Flows in the NFKR	80	44	116	72	318	156	61	61	784	52.8
Scenery was not a consideration when selecting this location	6	3.3	3	1	21	6	11	2	44	3
Project infrastructure (flowline, powerhouse, dam, and Other built facilities)	3	1.6	2	2	11	3	1	2	21	1.4
Other	8	4.4	1	0	3	1	4	0	9	0.6
Total Responses	**182**	**100**	**216**	**132**	**634**	**257**	**167**	**80**	**1,486**	**100**

-- = not applicable; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out; NFKR = North Fork Kern River

Respondents were asked to rate the scenic qualities in the area between Fairview Dam and the KR3 Powerhouse on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating very poor and 5 indicating very good, for: 1) general scenery such as rock outcrops, mountains and valleys (Table 5.1-27); 2) river flows between Fairview Dam and KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out (Table 5.1-28, and 3) Project infrastructure (flowline, powerhouse, dam, other built facilities) (Table 5.1-29).

For Study Sites 1 through 3, general scenic qualities were all rated as good or very good with a mean rating of 4.8. The scenic quality of NFKR river flows and Project infrastructure were primarily rated good or very good, with average ratings of 4.4 or 4.5. Those who rated the scenic qualities as poor or very poor stated their reasons were related to high and strong river flows.

For Study Sites 4 through 25, the individual ratings for the general scenic quality for day use, DCG, dispersed camping areas, trailheads, and KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out were all between neutral and very good (mean ratings of 4.7 or 4.8). While DUCG received one very poor and one poor rating, on average, the general scenic quality rating was 4.7 (good to very good). The mean scenic quality ratings for NFKR river flows and Project infrastructure ranged between 4.4 and 4.6 (good to very good). Individual ratings for KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out ranged from poor to very good for river flows and between neutral and very good for Project infrastructure. Those who rated the scenic qualities as poor or very poor stated their reasons were related to heavy river flows, low flows, and the Project infrastructure.

Table 5.1-27. Rating of General Scenic Qualities (Q25a)

Scenic Quality Rating	Sites 1-3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Rating of Scenic Quality by Site Type (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
Mean	4.8	--	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	--
Median	5	--	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	--
No Answer	2	--	3	6	12	5	2	0	28	--
1 Very Poor	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.1
2 Poor	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.1
3 Neutral	0	0	4	5	14	6	8	2	39	2.6
4 Good	32	17.2	47	25	169	74	41	14	370	24.3
5 Very Good	154	82.8	173	103	463	184	121	68	1112	73
Total Responses	**186**	**100**	**224**	**133**	**646**	**266**	**170**	**84**	**1,523**	**100**

-- = not applicable; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Table 5.1-28. Rating of North Fork Kern River Flows Scenic Qualities (Q25b)

Scenic Quality Rating	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Rating of Scenic Quality of NFKR Flows by Site Type (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
Mean	4.4	--	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	--
Median	5	--	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	--
No Answer	3	--	4	8	12	6	4	0	34	--
1 Very Poor	1	0.5	3	2	9	5	1	0	20	1.3
2 Poor	3	1.6	1	1	6	4	6	1	19	1.3
3 Neutral	18	9.7	22	8	60	25	15	7	137	9
4 Good	57	30.8	64	40	225	82	44	26	481	31.7
5 Very Good	106	57.3	133	80	346	149	102	50	860	56.7
Total Responses	**185**	**100**	**223**	**131**	**646**	**265**	**168**	**84**	**1,517**	**100**

-- = not applicable; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out; NFKR = North Fork Kern River

Table 5.1-29. Rating of Scenic Qualities Project Infrastructure (Q25c)

Scenic Quality Rating	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Rating of Scenic Quality of Project Infrastructure by Site Type (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
Mean	4.5	--	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.4	--
Median	5	--	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	--
No Answer	6	--	7	12	13	9	4	0	45	--
1 Very Poor	0	0	0	0	7	3	3	0	13	0.9
2 Poor	2	1.1	2	4	13	4	2	0	25	1.7
3 Neutral	28	15.4	32	10	83	39	19	8	191	12.7
4 Good	30	16.5	38	25	131	67	49	16	326	21.6
5 Very Good	122	67	148	88	411	149	95	60	951	63.1
Total Responses	**182**	**100**	**220**	**127**	**645**	**262**	**168**	**84**	**1,506**	**100**

-- = not applicable; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Respondents were asked how often they had visited the area over the past 12 months to participate in scenic activities such as photography, painting, scenic driving, viewing scenery, and/or viewing wildlife. For the respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3, 36 indicated that they had visited the area for scenic activities (Table 5.1-30). For those 36 respondents, the mean number of visits per season were higher in spring (1.4) and summer (2.8) than in fall (0.8) and winter (0.5) (Table 5.1-31). Approximately 69.4 percent of the respondents visited in summer and 33.3 percent visited in winter. At Study Sites 4 through 25, 308 respondents indicated that they had visited the area in the past 12 months for scenic activities. For those 308 respondents, the mean number of visits ranged from 1.3 in winter to 2.6 in summer. Approximately 71.4 percent and 60.1 percent or respondents visit in summer and spring, respectively, and approximately 55 percent visit in the fall and winter.

Table 5.1-30. Visited in Last 12 Months for Scenic Activities (Q26)

Visited for Scenic Activity	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Respondents Visited in Last 12 Months for Scenic Activity (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
No Answer	16	--	23	16	53	30	5	5	132	--
Never Visited	96	55.8	126	88	366	159	111	64	914	64.4
First Time	40	23.3	28	15	97	34	16	7	197	13.9
Yes	36	20.9	50	20	142	48	40	8	308	21.7
Total	**172**	**100**	**204**	**123**	**605**	**241**	**167**	**79**	**1,419**	**100**

-- = not applicable; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Table 5.1-31. Statistical Summary of the Number of Visits in Last 12 Months for Scenic Activities (Q26)

Season	Visits Per Season				Total Responses	
	Minimum	Mean	Median	Maximum	Count (more than 0 visits)	% (more than 0 visits)
Study Sites 1–3 (n=36)						
Spring	0	1.4	1	6	21	58.3
Summer	0	1.8	1.5	8	25	69.4
Fall	0	0.8	0	3	15	41.7
Winter	0	0.5	0	3	12	33.3

Season	Visits Per Season				Total Responses	
	Minimum	Mean	Median	Maximum	Count (more than 0 visits)	% (more than 0 visits)
Study Sites 4–25 (n=308)						
Spring	0	2.2	1	50	185	60.1
Summer	0	2.6	1	30	220	71.4
Fall	0	1.9	1	36	172	55.8
Winter	0	1.3	1	24	168	54.5

5.1.5. ANGLING EXPERIENCES

Respondents were asked if they had fished along the Fairview Bypass Reach prior to this visit. Of the 188 people surveyed at Study Sites 1 through 3, 40 responded that they had previously fished along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach; only those 40 respondents were asked questions 28 through 33 (Table 5.1-32). Of the 40 who had previously fished, 62.2 percent used spin fish with bait, 56.8 percent spin fish with lures, and 13.5 percent fly fish (Table 5.1-33). Further, 91.9 percent of respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 indicated they fished for fun, with the remaining indicating they fished for food (Table 5.1-34).

Of the 1,551 respondents at Study Sites 4 through 25, 358 indicated that they had previously fished along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach and subsequently answered questions 28 to 33 (Table 5.1-32). Of the 358 who had previously fished, 66.3 percent used spin fish with bait, 58.4 percent used spin fish with lures, and 15.8 percent fly fish (Table 5.1-33). The majority of respondents (86.5 percent) indicated they fish for fun (Table 5.1-34).

Table 5.1-32. Respondents Fished along Fairview Dam Bypass Reach (Q27)

Prior Fishing Reach Visit	Study Sites 1–3 (n=188)		Study Sites 4–25 (n=1551)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
No	130	76.5	1,067	74.9
Yes	40	23.5	358	25.1
Total Responses	**170**	**100**	**1,425**	**100**
No Answer	18		126	

Table 5.1-33. Type of Fishing Tackle (Q28)

Fishing Method	Study Sites 1–3 (n=40)		Study Sites 4–25 (n=358)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Spin Fish with Bait	23	62.2	226	66.3
Spin Fish with Lures	21	56.8	199	58.4
Fly Fish	5	13.5	54	15.8
Total Responses	**37**		**341**	
No Answer	3		17	

Note: Respondents were able to select more than one type of tackle.

Table 5.1-34. Fishing for Fun or Food (Q29)

Fishing Reason	Study Sites 1–3 (n=40)		Study Sites 4–25 (n=358)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Fun	34	91.9	300	86.5
Food	3	8.1	47	13.5
Total Responses	**37**	**100**	**347**	**100**
No Answer	3		11	

Survey respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 indicated their primary reasons for selecting that specific site for angling activities were fishing (number of fish and success rate) (42.9 percent), solitude/peace/scenery (11.4 percent), miscellaneous (11.4 percent), or they were a frequent visitor, river access, water levels/flows (8.6 percent each) (Table 5.1-35). Miscellaneous reasons included rationale such as recommended by a friend, memories, or less restrictions.

The primary reason for selecting that specific site for angling activities for the respondents at Study Sites 4 through 25 was fishing (number of fish and success rate) (51.4 percent), followed by solitude/peace/scenery (14.6 percent), river access (7.9 percent), good area/like the site (6 percent), and miscellaneous (6 percent) (Table 5.1-35). Miscellaneous reasons included recommendation or just checking out/trying the site.

Table 5.1-35. Primary Reason for Selecting Site for Angling Activities (Q30)

Reason Indicated	Study Sites 1–3 (n=40)		Study Sites 4–25 (n=358)							
	Total Responses		Reason for Selecting Site for Angling Activity (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
Camping at Site	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	8	2.5
Fishing	15	42.9	28	12	56	36	4	26	162	51.4
Frequent Visitor	3	8.6	2	0	0	3	0	0	5	1.6
Good Area/Like Site	1	2.9	4	2	6	5	0	2	19	6
Miscellaneous	4	11.4	6	0	7	6	0	0	19	6
Proximity/ Convenient	2	5.7	5	2	3	5	1	1	17	5.4
River Access	3	8.6	1	0	15	6	2	1	25	7.9
Solitude/Peaceful/ Scenery	4	11.4	8	3	15	10	0	10	46	14.6
Water Levels/Flows	3	8.6	2	0	8	4	0	0	14	4.4
Total Responses	**35**	**100**	**56**	**22**	**115**	**75**	**7**	**40**	**315**	**100**
No Answer	5		3	4	14	11	1	10	43	

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

A statistical summary of the number of visits per season over the past 12 months for angling activities for the 40 respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 and the 358 respondents at Study Sites 4 through 25 that indicated they had fished the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach before is provided in Table 5.1-36. Respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 visited between 1.2 times in winter and 2.0 times in summer, on average, for angling activities. The maximum number of visits per season were 6 or 9 visits. The same percentage of respondents indicated they visit in summer and fall (52.5 percent) with 60 percent visiting in spring and 57.5 percent visiting in winter. At Study Sites 4 through 25, the average number of visits per season over the past 12 months for angling activities ranged from 1.5 in winter to 2.8 in summer (Table 5.1-36). The maximum number of visits per season were 9 or 10 visits. The highest percent of respondents visited in winter (73.5 percent), and the lowest percentage visited in summer (51.4 percent).

Table 5.1-36. Statistical Summary of the Number of Visits in Last 12 Months for Angling Activities (Q31)

Season	Visits Per Season				Total Responses	
	Minimum	Mean	Median	Maximum	Count (more than 0 visits)	% (more than 0 visits)
Study Sites 1–3 (n=40)						
Spring	0	1.9	1	6	24	60
Summer	0	2.0	1	9	21	52.5
Fall	0	1.4	1	6	21	52.5
Winter	0	1.2	1	6	23	57.5
Total	0	6.4	4	21		
Study Sites 4–25 (n=358)						
Spring	0	2.0	1	9	195	54.5
Summer	0	2.8	1	10	184	51.4
Fall	0	1.9	2	10	234	65.4
Winter	0	1.5	1	9	263	73.5
Total	0	8.1	5	30		

Note: Respondents could indicate they visit in more than one season.

When asked if river flows affected their angling experience in the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach, 84.4 percent of respondents at study sites1-3 and 84.3 percent of respondents at Study Sites 4 through 25 indicated that the river flows did not affect their angling experience (Table 5.1-37). At Study Sites 1 through 3 and at Study Sites 4 through 25, 5 respondents and 51 respondents, respectively, indicated that river flows had affected their angling experience. Three of the five respondents stated that river flows affected their angling experience at Study Sites 1 through 3. These three respondents indicated their experience was affected in winter; one respondent said their experience was affected in each of the other seasons (Table 5.1-38). Four of the five respondents indicated the reason their experience was affected was because flows were too high; one respondent said flows were too low (Table 5.1-39). Survey respondents at Study Sites 4 through 25 indicated they had angling experiences affected in all seasons and most frequently in summer and winter (38 percent and 40 percent of respondents, respectively) (Table 5.1-38). More respondents indicated that their angling experience was affected because flows were too high (61.2 percent) than too low (38.8 percent) (Table 5.1-39). Two survey respondents at the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out stated they have had an angling experience affected by high river flows in spring.

Table 5.1-37. Effects of River Flows on Angling Experiences (Q32a)

Yes/No	Study Sites 1–3 (n=40)		Study Sites 4–25 (n=358)							
	Total Responses		Effects of River Flows on Angling by Site Type (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
No	27	84.4	49	17	105	59	5	38	273	84.3
Yes	5	15.6	7	7	16	17	2	2	51	15.7
Total Responses	**32**	**100**	**56**	**24**	**121**	**76**	**7**	**40**	**324**	**100**
No Answer	8		3	2	8	10	1	10	34	

DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Table 5.1-38. Season When River Flows Affected Experience (Q32b)

Season	Study Sites 1–3 (n=5)		Study Sites 4–25 (n=51)							
	Total Responses		Season When Flows Affected Experience by Site Type (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
Spring	1	20	2	0	3	3	2	2	12	24
Summer	1	20	3	3	8	4	1	0	19	38
Fall	1	20	0	1	3	3	0	0	7	14
Winter	3	60	2	2	5	11	0	0	20	40
Total Responses [a]	**5**	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	**50**	--
No Answer	0	--	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	--

-- = not applicable; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

a Respondents were able to select more than one season.

Table 5.1-39. Reason River Flows Affected Experience (Q32c)

Reason	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Reason River Flows Affected Experience by Site Type (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	%
Too Low	1	20	2	2	7	8	0	0	19	38.8
Too High	4	80	5	4	8	9	2	2	30	61.2
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Responses	**5**	**100**	**7**	**6**	**15**	**17**	**2**	**2**	**49**	**100**
No Answer	0	--	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	--

-- = not applicable; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Respondents were asked to rate (on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very poor and 5 being very good) the conditions of their angling experience that day or on the day of their most recent angling trip between the Fairview Dam and the KR3 Powerhouse (Table 5.1-40). All survey respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 rated their experiences as neutral, good, or very good with an average rating of 4.4 (Table 5.1-40). At Study Sites 4 through 25, individual ratings at the day use, DCG, dispersed camping areas, and DUCG site types varied between very poor and very good. All respondents at the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out rated their experience as good or very good, and all respondents at the trailheads rated their experiences as neutral or higher. Overall, 91.7 percent of respondents at Study Sites 4 through 25 rated the conditions during their angling experiences as good or very good, 5.1 percent gave a neutral rating, and 3.1 percent rated their experience as poor or very poor (Table 5.1-40). The explanations for poor and very poor ratings included that the flow was too low, too high, too fast, and lack of fish during the respondent's first time fishing.

Table 5.1-40. Respondents Condition Rating of Angling Experience (Q33)

Angling Experience Rating	Study Sites 1-3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Rating of Angling Experience by Site Type (Number of Responses)						Total Responses	
	Count	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Count	% [a]
Mean	4.4	--	4.5	4.1	4.5	4.5	4	4.7	4.5	--
Median	4.5	--	5	4	5	5	4	5	5	--
No Answer	0	--	0	1	1	4	1	1	8	--
1 Very Poor	0	0	1	2	4	0	0	0	7	2
2 Poor	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	4	1.1
3 Neutral	4	10	5	1	3	6	3	0	18	5.1
4 Good	16	40	15	9	43	20	1	16	104	29.7
5 Very Good	20	50	38	12	77	54	3	33	217	62
Total Responses	**40**	**100**	**59**	**25**	**128**	**82**	**7**	**49**	**350**	**100**

-- = not applicable; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out
[a] Total percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

5.1.6. USER FEEDBACK

Respondents were asked to provide any recommended improvements to the recreation site where they were surveyed (Table 5.1-41). Of the improvements recorded at Study Sites 1 through 3, 41.4 percent of respondents indicated they would like restrooms/sanitation features improved and 15.3 percent recommended trash cans/maintenance/cleaning. At Study Sites 4 through 25, 40.4 percent of respondents indicated they would like restrooms/sanitation features improved, 15.9 percent recommended new or repaired benches/tables/grills, and 9.5 percent recommended improvements to the parking area or paving. Common recommendations at the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out were restrooms/sanitation, trash cans/maintenance/cleaning, and benches/tables/grills.

Respondents were asked to recommend additional recreation facilities at the recreation site where they were surveyed (Table 5.1-42). Approximately 49 percent of respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 indicated they had no/none recommendations. Of those respondents that recommended additional facilities, restrooms and benches/grills/tables were the most common recommendation with approximately 10 percent of total responses each. Approximately 37 percent of respondents at Study Sites 4 through 25 indicated they had no/none recommendations. Of those respondents that recommended additional facilities, the most common included restrooms (20.4 percent), benches/tables/grills (17.7 percent), and drinking/washing stations (11.8 percent).

Miscellaneous comments included more trees/shade, playground, security items, a bridge, and general comments such as adding more is better or more space to accommodate crowding.

When asked to provide any additional comments about the recreation site where they were surveyed, approximately 11 percent of respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 commented on trash/recycling/cleaning, 7 percent commented on restrooms, approximately 6 percent commented drinking/washing stations, and 5 percent commented on signs/information/warnings (Table 5.1-43). At Study Sites 4 through 25, approximately 11 percent commented on signs/information/warnings, 8 percent commented on restrooms, 6.5 percent commented on drinking/washing stations, and 6 percent each commented on trash/recycling/cleaning and benches/tables/grills. Miscellaneous comments included restaurants, hotels, trees/shade, clearing, security items, a bridge, playground, and wishing road construction was done.

Table 5.1-41. Respondents Recommended Improvements (Q34)

Improvement	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Number of Responses per Site Type						Total Responses	
	Number	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Number	%
ADA accessibility	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	6	0.6
Bear box	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	5	0.5
Benches/Restrooms	0	0	3	1	4	2		2	12	1.2
Benches/Tables/Grills	4	3.6	34	13	72	20	9	11	159	15.9
Better Entrance/Fix Entrance	0	0	1	0	10	2	1	0	14	1.4
Bridge	2	1.8	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	0.3
Fire pit	2	1.8	0	0	6	2	0	0	8	0.8
Landscaping/Clearing	4	3.6	5	5	13	10	1	3	37	3.7
Trash Cans/ Maintenance/Cleaning	17	15.3	9	3	26	10	1	11	60	6
Miscellaneous	6 [a]	5.4	3	10	13	6	5	2	39 [b]	3.9
Open Site	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	9	0.9
Parking/Paving	9	8.1	8	9	41	22	14	1	95	9.5
Playground	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	6	0.6
Restrooms/Sanitation	46	41.4	56	51	163	70	30	34	404	40.4
River Access	1	0.9	1	1	3	0	0	0	5	0.5
Signs/Information	6	5.4	13	3	25	12	13	2	68	6.8
Trail Maintenance / More Trails	6	5.4	2	0	9	5	7	0	23	2.3
Electricity/cell coverage	2	1.8	2	4	6	0	0	0	12	1.2

Improvement	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Number of Responses per Site Type						Total Responses	
	Number	%	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Number	%
Emergency/Safety/ Warning Signs	4	3.6	3	1	7	3	5	0	19	1.9
Fishing Access/ fishing line disposal	2	1.8	5	1	4	5	0	2	17	1.7
Total Responses	**111**	**100**	**149**	**106**	**406**	**184**	**88**	**68**	**1,001**	**100**
No Answer	77	--	78	33	252	87	74	26	550	--

-- = not applicable; ADA = Americans with Disabilities Act; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

[a] Reconstruct the area, stay longer than a day, pet friendly area, take more than two fish, stricter reservation rules

[b] Additional activities at campsites, more space for vehicle parking, better pictures of sits on website, shops/convenience store, and additional rules about music and noise

Table 5.1-42. Respondents Recommended Additional Recreation Facilities (Q35)

Recreation Facility	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Number of Responses per Site Type						Total Responses	
	Number	% [a]	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Number	% [a]
No Additions Needed	92	48.9	81	56	240	84	80	32	573	36.9
Restrooms	19	10.1	34	26	133	62	42	19	316	20.4
Benches/Tables/Grills	19	10.1	51	15	118	39	30	21	274	17.7
Drinking/washing stations	17	9	38	14	74	28	19	10	183	11.8
Camping	13	6.9	6	7	26	19	1	1	60	3.9
Trash/Recycling/Cleaning	9	4.8	21	19	66	24	13	5	148	9.5
Trails/Hiking	9	4.8	1	3	2	5	9	0	20	1.3
Signs/Information/Warnings	8	4.3	7	9	33	14	7	2	72	4.6
Parking/Roads/Paving	8	4.3	13	2	27	12	3	6	63	4.1
River access	5	2.7	5	4	12	10	3	3	37	2.4
Accessibility	3	1.6	5	2	7	1	1	1	17	1.1
Lighting/Electricity/Wifi	3	1.6	1	2	6	0	1	0	10	0.6
Miscellaneous	7	3.7	8	8	43	13	8	6	86	5.5
No Comment	12		19	7	29	30	4	4	93	
Total Responses	**188**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**1,551**	**--**

-- = not applicable; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

[a] Respondents were allowed to provide multiple answers; therefore, the percentage total does not equal 100.

Table 5.1-43. Respondents Additional Comments (Q36)

Additional Comments	Study Sites 1–3		Study Sites 4–25							
	Total Responses		Number of Responses per Site Type						Total Responses	
	Number	% [a]	Day Use	DCG	Dispersed Camping	DUCG	Trail-head	KR3 PH	Number	% [a]
Trash/Recycling/Cleaning	21	11.2	16	9	41	26	7	1	100	6.4
Indicated site/facility good as is	16	8.5	17	9	33	14	4	7	84	5.4
Restrooms	14	7.4	16	10	54	20	16	3	119	7.7
Drinking/washing stations	11	5.9	15	10	46	13	13	4	101	6.5
Signs/Information/Warnings	9	4.8	30	14	56	30	18	16	164	10.6
Parking/Roads/Paving	8	4.3	8	3	27	8	7	1	54	3.5
Camping	7	3.7	5	3	20	11	0	2	41	2.6
Trails/Hiking	7	3.7	1	1	7	1	13	0	23	1.5
Miscellaneous	6	3.2	7	4	23	4	2	2	42	2.7
Benches/Grills/Tables	3	1.6	15	12	33	19	12	8	99	6.4
Lighting/Electricity/Wifi	3	1.6	0	1	3	3	1	0	8	0.5
River access	2	1.1	0	3	7	12	1	2	25	1.6
Accessibility	1	0.5	1	2	6	4	0	1	14	0.9
No Comment	100	53.2	113	71	361	141	99	42	827	53.3
Total Responses	**188**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**1,551**	**--**

-- = not applicable; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use site adjacent to a developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

[a] Respondents were allowed to provide multiple answers; therefore, the percentage total does not equal 100.

5.2. CURRENT RECREATION USE AND DENSITY ESTIMATES

5.2.1. RECREATION USE

As part of this year-long study, 10,902 recreationists were observed partaking in recreation activities within the study area based on spot count data. Of those observed, there were a total of 1,076 visitors recreating at Study Sites 1 through 3, 280 visitors recreating at the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out, and 9,546 visitors recreating at Study Sites 4 through 25. The most commonly observed activity was camping.

The estimated recreation days by season and type of day (weekday, weekend, holiday), between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, are provided in Table 5.2-1. During the study period, there was an estimated total of approximately 31,900 recreation days at Study Sites 1 through 3. The season with the highest number of recreation days was summer at 15,100 days, followed by spring (7,200 days), fall (6,100 days), and winter (3,500 days). The most recreation days, by day type, were recorded on weekdays with 15,100 days.

At Study Sites 4 through 25, the estimated total recreation days for the study period was 117,700 days. Most recreation days were estimated for the day use component of dispersed camping areas (33,200 days) and for day use sites (25,900 days). Approximately 10,900 recreation days were estimated for the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out. The season with the highest use was summer at approximately 75,900 recreation days. The most recreation days, by day type, were recorded on weekends with approximately 51,200 days.

Table 5.2-1. Estimated Recreation Visitation (Recreation Days) from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

Day type	Study Sites 1–3	Study Sites 4–25							
		Day Use	Dispersed Camping		DUCG		Trail-head	KR3 PH	Total
			Day Use	Camping Use	Day Use	Camping Use			
Spring									
Total Weekday	3,900	1,200	2,600	300	600	25	1,100	500	**10,200**
Total Weekend	3,300	1,000	3,500	500	700	17	700	2,100	**11,800**
Total Spring	**7,200**	**2,200**	**6,100**	**800**	**1,300**	**42**	**1,800**	**2,600**	**22,000**
Summer									
Total Weekday	7,000	6,800	3,500	1,800	4,200	1,000	1,700	800	**26,800**
Total Weekend	4,400	5,500	9,100	5,000	9,000	2,600	800	1,400	**37,800**
Total Holiday	3,700	5,300	8,200	2,900	2,500	1,000	1,300	1,500	**26,400**
Total Summer	**15,100**	**17,600**	**20,800**	**9,700**	**15,700**	**4,600**	**3,800**	**3,700**	**91,000**
Fall									
Total Weekday	2,200	1,900	1,800	800	1,200	58	800	2,100	**10,900**
Total Weekend	2,900	1,500	1,800	800	700	53	900	1,100	**9,800**
Total Holiday	1,000	200	200	68	55	5	300	200	**2,100**
Total Fall	**6,100**	**3,600**	**3,800**	**1,700**	**2,000**	**100**	**2,000**	**3,400**	**22,700**
Winter									
Total Weekday	2,000	1,600	1,600	400	900	2	800	700	**8,000**
Total Weekend	800	500	500	100	500	2	500	300	**3,200**
Total Holiday	700	400	400	100	300	1	500	200	**2,600**
Total Winter	**3,500**	**2,500**	**2,500**	**600**	**1,700**	**5**	**1,800**	**1,200**	**13,800**
Total Annual	**31,900**	**25,900**	**33,200**	**12,800**	**20,700**	**4,800**	**9,400**	**10,900**	**149,600**

KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out; DUCG = Day Use and Adjacent Developed Campground

5.2.2. DENSITY (PARKING UTILIZATION)

During the study period, the maximum parking utilization on non-peak weekends was estimated to be highest at the Whiskey Flat Trailhead (66 percent), followed by the Johnsondale Bridge River Access (55 percent). During peak (holiday) weekends, parking capacity was highest at the Whiskey Flat Trailhead at 98 percent followed by the Camp 3 Campground at 76 percent, Johnsondale Bridge River Access at 67 percent, and the Corral Creek Day Use Site at 64 percent (Table 5.2-2). At 18 of the 25 sites, the date with the maximum number of vehicles was over the Memorial Day, July 4th, or Labor Day holiday weekends. At six sites, the date with the peak number of vehicles was on a summer weekend. At one site, the maximum vehicles were observed on a summer weekday.

Table 5.2-2. Estimated Parking Utilization within the Project Area from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

Site Number	Site Name	Site Type	Parking Capacity (Vehicle Spaces)	Non-Peak Weekend Parking Utilization (%)	Peak (Holiday) Parking Utilization (%)
1	Johnsondale Bridge River Access	Day Use	14	55	67
4	Willow Point Whitewater Take-out	Day Use	18	3	4
5	Roads End Picnic Site and Whitewater Put-in	Day Use	50	3	5
15	Corral Creek Picnic Site and Whitewater Take-out	Day Use	8	17	64
23	Riverkern Beach Picnic Site	Day Use	15	23	55
24	KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	Day Use	20	24	22
6	Packsaddle Trail Trailhead	Trailhead	18	15	13
10	Rincon Trailhead	Trailhead	4	13	50
25	Whiskey Flat Trailhead	Trailhead	5	66	98
2	Brush Creek Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	107	4	11
8	Calkins Flat Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	75	18	37

Site Number	Site Name	Site Type	Parking Capacity (Vehicle Spaces)	Non-Peak Weekend Parking Utilization (%)	Peak (Holiday) Parking Utilization (%)
9	Chamise Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	42	12	27
11	Ant Canyon Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	28	21	53
12	Old Goldledge Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	10	25	40
14	Springhill Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	100	7	18
16	Corral Creek Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	42	15	46
18	Chico Flat Dispersed Camping	Dispersed Camping	50	13	35
13	Goldledge Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	DUCG	18	10	21
19	Thunderbird Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	DUCG	11	5	14
20	Camp 3 Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	DUCG	15	15	76
21	Halfway Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	DUCG	20	5	26

DUCG = day use area adjacent to developed campground; KR3 = Kern River No. 3
Notes:
Sites 3, 7, 17 and 22 are Forest Service-developed campgrounds; therefore, a parking capacity analysis was not completed for these sites.
Sites 13, 19, 20, and 22 parking capacity analysis was only completed for the day use portion of the sites.

5.2.3. SQF Developed Campground Utilization

During the study period, the maximum camping utilization on non-peak weekends was estimated to be highest at the Thunderbird Group Campground (78 percent), followed by the Limestone Campground, Goldledge Campground, Camp 3 Campground and Halfway Group Campground which ranged between 61 percent to 69 percent each. During peak (holiday) weekends, the camping capacity was highest at the Thunderbird Group Campground at 83 percent followed by the Halfway Group Campground at 81 percent and Limestone Campground at 71 percent (Table 5.2-3). At the four DCGs and four DCG

portions of DUCG sites, the date with the maximum number of occupied campsites occurred in summer 2023 on a mix of holidays, weekends, or weekdays.

Table 5.2-3. Estimated Camping Utilization at Developed Campgrounds within the Project Area from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

Site Number	Site Name	Site Type	Camping Capacity (# of Campsites)	Non-Peak Weekend Camping Utilization (%)	Peak (Holiday) Camping Utilization (%)
3	Limestone Campground	DCG	19 single sites	66	71
7	Fairview Campground	DCG	54 single sites (includes 2 ADA)	46	46
			1 group	0	0
13	Goldledge Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	DUCG	35 single sites	69	56
17	Hospital Flat Campground	DCG	39 single sites (includes 2 ADA)	36	35
19	Thunderbird Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	DUCG	3 group	78	83
20	Camp 3 Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	DUCG	55 single sites (includes 1 ADA)	64	41
21	Halfway Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out	DUCG	4 group	61	81
22	Headquarters Campground	DCG	43 single sites (includes 1 ADA)	14	38

ADA = Americans with Disabilities Act; DCG = developed campground; DUCG = day use area adjacent to developed campground

5.3. FUTURE RECREATION USE AND NEEDS ESTIMATES

The estimated projections of future recreation use were developed using the average annual increase in population growth over the past 10 years, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau (Table 5.3-1). Based on the 10-year historical data, the average annual increase in population was 0.7 percent for Kern County, California. and 0.6 percent for Tulare County, California.

Table 5.3-1. Population Growth from 2013 through 2022 for Kern County, California

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	10-year Average
Kern County	864,124	874,589	882,176	884,788	893,119	896,764	900,202	916,108	917,673	916,108	0.7
Percent Change		1.2	0.9	0.3	0.9	0.4	0.4	1.8	0.2	-0.2	
Tulare County	454,143	458,198	459,863	460,437	464,493	465,861	466,195	473,117	477,054	477,544	0.6
Percent Change		0.9	0.4	0.1	0.9	0.3	0.1	1.5	0.8	0.1	
California	38,332,521	38,802,500	39,144,818	39,250,017	39,536,653	39,557,045	39,512,223	39,538,223	39,237,836	39,029,342	0.2
Percent Change		1.2	0.9	0.3	0.7	0.1	-0.1	0.1	-0.8	-0.5	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024

Based on the 10-year average rate of change in population for Kern County, Tulare County, and the state of California, the estimated population projections are provided in 10-year intervals for the anticipated term of the license up to 50 years into the future (Table 5.3-2).

Table 5.3-2. Population Projections through 2070 for Kern County, Tulare County, and the state of California

	2020 Census	2030 Projection	2040 Projection	2050 Projection	2060 Projection	2070 Projection
Kern County	916,108	982,533	1,053,775	1,130,182	1,212,130	1,300,019
Tulare County	473,117	502,373	533,438	566,424	601,450	638,641
California	39,538,223	40,336,948	41,151,808	41,983,130	42,831,246	43,696,494

Per generally accepted practice and the methods described in the study plan, estimates of future recreation use in the Project Area were determined by projecting the 2023 recreation day estimates (Table 5.2-1) in 10-year intervals out to 2070. The projected recreation days were weighted by the proportion of surveys that were completed in Kern and Tulare Counties. The current recreation use is estimated to be approximately 150,000 recreation days in 2023 for the Project Area. FERC may issue SCE a new license for the Project for a term of 50 years, at which time the Project Area could receive approximately 204,900 annual recreation days in 2070. This is an increase of approximately 54,900 recreation days, or approximately 37 percent (Table 5.3-3).

Table 5.3-3. Estimated Future Recreation Days, 2023–2070

Year	Study Sites 1–3 [a]	Study Sites 4–25 [a]							
		Day Use	Dispersed Camping		DUCG		Trail-head	KR3 PH	Total
			Day Use	Camping Use	Day Use	Camping Use			
2023	32,000	26,000	33,000	13,000	21,000	4,800	9,200	11,000	150,000
2030	33,500	27,200	34,600	13,600	22,000	5,000	9,600	11,500	157,100
2040	35,800	29,100	36,900	14,600	23,500	5,400	10,300	12,300	167,900
2050	38,300	31,100	39,500	15,600	25,100	5,700	11,000	13,200	179,500
2060	40,900	33,200	42,200	16,600	26,800	6,100	11,800	14,100	191,800
2070	43,700	35,500	45,100	17,800	28,700	6,600	12,600	15,100	204,900

DUCG = day use area adjacent to developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Note: Numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

[a] Developed campgrounds (sites 3, 7, 17, and 22) are not included in the future recreation day estimates.

Future recreation needs within the Project Area can be assessed in part by comparing the recreation use estimates and parking utilization percentages determined for 2023 to the projected growth rates of Kern County and Tulare County in which the Project is

located. Assuming recreation use would increase at the same rate as population growth, recreation days within the Project Area would increase by approximately 54,900. With this increase, parking utilization and campground utilization at the recreation sites would remain under capacity with the exceptions of the Whiskey Flat Trailhead in 2040, 2050, 2060, and 2070, and the Camp 3 Campground in 2070. In 2070, the parking utilization on non-peak weekends at the KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out is expected to be approximately 33 percent. Parking and campground availability was not identified as a concern within the Project Area based on the utilization analysis and the results of the surveys. Increased parking was not listed as a recommended improvement at the recreation sites. The recommendation for additional camping was noted, however only by 6.9 percent of survey respondents at Study Sites 1 through 3 and 3.9 percent of survey respondents at Study Sites 4 through 25. It is also unclear as to whether additional campsites were needed, or if an additional camping area located elsewhere within the Project Area was desired.

When looking at the surrounding area of the SQF, the National Visitor Use Monitoring reports show an ebb and flow of visitation over the years. From 2006 to 2011, the National Visitor Use Monitoring shows an increase of visits to day use developed sites of approximately 89 percent, while visits to developed overnight sites increased by approximately 70 percent. However, from 2011 to 2016 a decrease in visitation occurred at day use developed sites of approximately 26 percent and at overnight developed sites of approximately 19 percent (Forest Service, 2011 and 2018). Based on these trends in visitation use the future recreation projections for the Project Area would be anticipated to increase slightly, which is in alignment with the population trend for Kern County.

5.4. COMPARISON OF SPRING 2023 AND SPRING 2024 RECREATION USE DATA

After the March 2023 storm event, Mountain Highway 99, was closed just south of Fairview Campground (site 7). All sites north (sites 1-6), including site 7, were closed and inaccessible to the public. Additionally, site damage, and subsequent closure, was reported by the SQF at site 12 and 14. SCE reported closure of site 10 due to the road being washed out. The road closure and site cleanup extended through April and May 2023. Stakeholders commented on the ISR noting 2023 was an anomaly water year and requested additional data be collected through 2024. Based on stakeholder comments on the ISR, SCE filed a response to comments (SCE, 2024a) noting due to the storm event and site closures additional data collection would take place in April and May 2024. The data collected in 2024 would allow comparison to 2023 and to have supplemental data during the 2024 period when sites were open. As part of the additional data collection, SCE conducted spot count and 2-hour calibration counts at the non-fee day use/dispersed camping recreation sites in the study area on 1 weekday and 1 weekend day in April and May 2024 and 1 day of the 3-day Memorial Day weekend, for a total of 5 additional data collection days.

Recreation days were estimated for Spring 2023 and Spring 2024 for comparison based on the spot count and 2-hour calibration count data collection efforts. Results of the data collection efforts for April through May 2023 (Table 5.4-1) and April through May 2024 (Table 5.4-2) are presented below. The recreation day estimates show there was a slight

increase in use at Study Sites 1 through 3 (300 recreation days, 8 percent) from 2023 to 2024. Day use sites and the day use at dispersed camping areas both showed a decrease from 2023 to 2024, 100 recreation days and 2,200 recreation days, respectively. All other site types showed an increase in recreation days ranging from 500 recreation days to 1,500 recreation days. Overall, there was an increase in recreation days of approximately 17.6 percent during the spring of 2024 and decrease in recreation days of approximately 23.8 percent during the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Table 5.4-1. Estimated Recreation Days, April through May 2023

Day Type	Study Sites 1–3 [a]	Study Sites 4–25[a]							
		Day Use	Dispersed Camping		DUCG		Trail-head	KR3 PH	Total
			Day Use	Camping Use	Day Use	Camping Use			
Total Weekday	0	500	1,500	300	400	32	400	2,200	5,332
Total Weekend	2,800	1,400	2,500	700	400	45	300	1,100	9,245
Total Spring	**2,800**	**1,900**	**4,000**	**1,000**	**800**	**77**	**700**	**3,300**	**14,600**
Memorial Day weekend	1,000	400	2,200	600	200	300	100	27	4,827
Total	**3,800**	**2,300**	**6,200**	**1,600**	**1,000**	**400**	**800**	**3,300**	**19,400**

DUCG = day use area adjacent to developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Note: Numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

[a] Developed campgrounds (sites 3, 7, 17, and 22) are not included in the Spring 2023 and Spring 2024 recreation day estimate comparison.

Table 5.4-2. Estimated Recreation Days, April through May 2024

Day Type	Study Sites 1–3 [a]	Study Sites 4–25 [a]							
		Day Use	Dispersed Camping		DUCG		Trail-head	KR3 PH	Total
			Day Use	Camping Use	Day Use	Camping Use			
Total Weekday	2,900	1,100	2,300	1,100	700	200	600	2,300	11,200
Total Weekend	800	400	1,200	900	800	500	700	1,200	6,500
Total Spring	**3,700**	**1,500**	**3,500**	**2,000**	**1,500**	**700**	**1,300**	**3,500**	**17,700**
Memorial Day weekend	400	700	500	1,100	400	200	300	300	3,900
Total	**4,100**	**2,200**	**4,000**	**3,100**	**1,900**	**900**	**1,600**	**3,800**	**21,600**

DUCG = day use area adjacent to developed campground; KR3 PH = KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out

Note: Numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

[a] Developed campgrounds (sites 3, 7, 17, and 22) are not included in the Spring 2023 and Spring2024 recreation day estimate comparison.

5.5. CONSISTENCY WITH APPLICABLE SQF LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Land Management Plan (Forest Service, 2023) was developed to provide direction and adaptive management for the resources in the KR3 Project Area.[17] 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).

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

- Infrastructure meets the minimum needs of potential uses and mimics the area's natural landscape (REC-FW-GDL 02).

The sites were found to align with the following Destination Recreation Area (MA-DRA) desired conditions (DC), objectives (OBJ), goals (GOAL), and guidelines (GDL):

- Sites have a developed footprint that is appropriate to the setting, visually appealing, and well maintained. (MA-DRA-DC 01).

- Sites provide scenic integrity with a natural-appearing landscape retained outside of the development footprint (MA-DRA-DC 02).

- Sites provide infrastructure and amenities that are consistent with user capacity (MA-DRA-DC 06).

- Sites provide traffic and parking that do not negatively impact the visitor experience (MA-DRA-DC 08).

Additionally, the sites were found to align with the following General Recreation Area (MA-GRA) 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 and result in infrequent conflicts between different uses (MA-GRA-DC 03, 06).

- 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).

6.0 STUDY-SPECIFIC CONSULTATION

Prior to the installation of trail cameras, SCE sent a list, map, and description of the proposed camera locations to the SQF, National Parks Service, and Kern River Boaters (KRB) via email. The following summarizes the dates and provides a brief overview of the consultation; Appendix E, Consultation Log, contains copies of these correspondence.

- March 3, 2023: SCE emailed SQF, the National Parks Service, and KRB approximately 1 month prior to camera installation of the five selected locations and the addition of 1-hour calibration counts to supplement data captured by the cameras.

- March 17, 2023: Email from KRB to SCE expressing their objection to the choice of camera sites as well as the number of cameras proposed to be installed.

- March 24, 2023: Email from SCE to KRB and other Stakeholders on the email proposing to install an additional camera at a site located above the Fairview Dam and reiterated that in addition to the cameras, calibration counts would be conducted at all 25 sites.

- March 31, 2023: Email from KRB to SCE noting their concern about the number of sites as well as noting their thoughts on an increase in spot counts and survey days in addition to calibration counts in order to collect the amount of data they feel was requested by FERC in the SPD.

- May 4, 2023: In-person consultation with SQF District Ranger and SCE, discussing proposed camera locations at all 25 recreation sites, 24 of those being owned and operated by SQF. Camera installation at all sites was verbally approved by the SQF District Ranger.

- May 24, 2023: Email from SQF Public Services Staff Officer, providing a letter from their concessionaire (Advenco/ExplorUS) requesting that SCE remove all cameras from their permitted recreation facilities (i.e., hosted campground).

- June 1, 2023: Phone call between SCE and FERC notifying FERC staff about the removal of cameras from the recreation facilities.

- August 21, 2023: Letter from SQF Forest Supervisor formally requesting removal of cameras from SQF campgrounds.

SCE reached out to the SQF inquiring about recreation use numbers for the DCGs and the DCG portion of DUCGs within the study area throughout the study plan development phase as part of formal or informal meetings held in October 2020, June 2022, and May 2024.

7.0 OUTSTANDING STUDY PLAN ELEMENTS

As noted in Section 4.5, if the SQF is able to provide additional information regarding the capacity or frequency of use at their DCGs, then SCE will issue a supplemental Technical Memorandum with the Updated Study Report or with the Final License Application.

In accordance with FERC's Determination on Requests for Study Modifications, SCE initiated outreach with the SQF on June 14, 2024, to inquire about the use and installation of cameras at select river access locations. Following feedback from the SQF, SCE will engage with interested Stakeholders regarding the additional data collection efforts to obtain use estimates, including percent capacity at select river access locations and activity-type estimates, specifically commercial vs. non-commercial boaters and the type of watercrafts used. A supplemental Technical Memorandum describing the consultation, methodology, and data analysis will be developed at the conclusion of one year of data collection.

8.0 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A
FINAL VISITOR INTERCEPT SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

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Kern River No. 3 Recreational User Survey

Welcome to the recreation user survey for the Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project (KR3 or Project), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2290. The purpose of this survey is to gather information about recreation opportunities within the FERC Project Boundary and along the 16-mile reach of the North Fork Kern River (NFKR) between Fairview Dam and the KR3 Powerhouse (the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach).

Would you mind answering some survey questions? We anticipate this survey will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes.

The information you provide will help guide current and future management of recreation opportunities, sites, and facilities for visitors to the Project Area. Please use the map below to (re)familiarize yourself with the general recreation area before answering the survey questions, and feel free to encourage others to participate in this survey.

[P*rovide a separate hard copy of the map to respondents, if relevant.*]

Any information you provide us today will remain anonymous. If at any time there is a question you prefer not to answer, feel free to skip that question and move to the next. The survey is broken out into the following sections:

- Section 1 - Demographics
- Section 2 - Current Trip Information and Experience
- Section 3 - Past Recreation Trips
- Section 4 - Surrounding Landscapes
- Section 5 - Angling Experiences
- Section 6 - User Feedback

Recreation User Survey
Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2290)

Clerk: _____ Site: _____ Date: _____

Time:_____a.m./p.m.

Weather: ☐ Sunny ☐ Partly Cloudy ☐ Cloudy ☐ Light Rain ☐ Heavy Rain

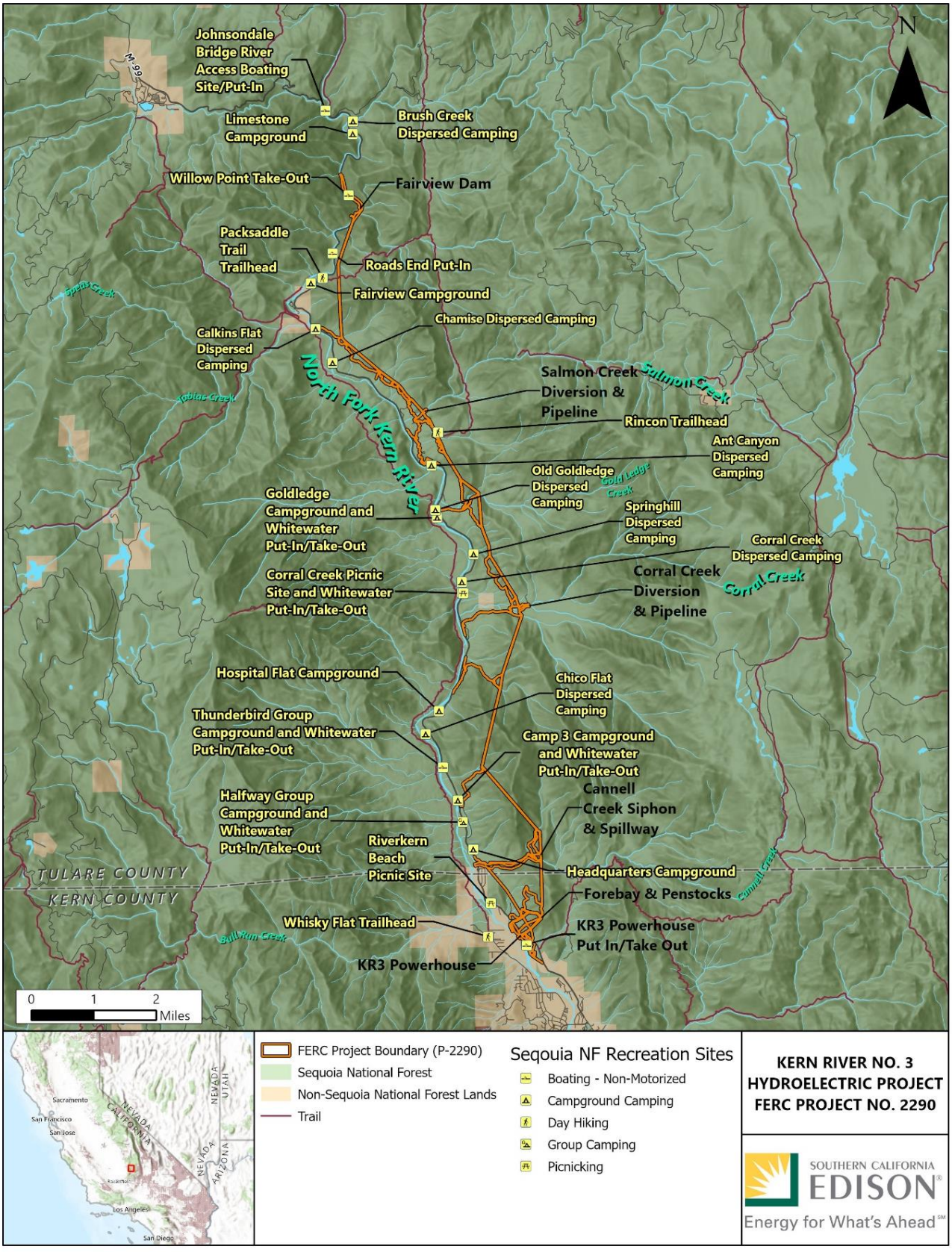
RESPONDENT REFUSED INTERVIEW: ☐

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN VEHICLE: _____

RESPONDENT'S PRIMARY LANGUAGE: _____

VEHICLE HAS WATERCRAFT RACK: ☐

RESPONDENT HAS BEEN INTERVIEWED AT THIS SITE PREVIOUSLY: ☐



Section 1 – Demographics

1. What is your home zip code? _____

2. How far did you travel to get to this site today?
   ☐ 0–25 miles ☐ 26–50 miles ☐ 51–75 miles ☐ 76–100 miles ☐ 101+ miles

3. What is your age?
   ☐ Under 16 ☐ 16–19 ☐ 20–29 ☐ 30–39 ☐ 40–49 ☐ 50–59 ☐ 60–69 ☐ 70+

4. Including yourself, how many people 18 or older are in your party today?
   _____ person/people

5. Including yourself, how many people under 18 are in your party today?
   _____ person/people

6. What gender, if any, do you identify as (open ended)? _____

7. What is your ethnicity?
   a. Spanish/Latino Origin
   b. Black
   c. White
   d. Asian/Pacific Islander
   e. Other

8. What is your total household income?
   a. Less than $40,000
   b. $41,000–$80,000
   c. $81,000 and above

9. What best describes your employment status?
   a. Full-time
   b. Part-time
   c. Unemployed
   d. Self-employed
   e. Homemaker
   f. Student
   g. Retired
   h. Other: _____

10. If employed, what is your occupation? _____

Section 2 – Current Trip Information and Experience

11. What day did you arrive at this recreation site?

    Date: _____

12. Is this site the primary destination for your trip? ☐ YES ☐ NO

13. How many days have you been on this recreation trip, including today?

    _____ day(s)

14. How many total days do you expect your trip to last?

    _____ day(s)

15. What was your primary reason for selecting this location?

    _____

16. What is the primary recreation activity that you participated in today at this recreation site? *(Please read the list to respondents. Check only one main activity in the first column.)* What other activities did you participate in today at this recreation site? *(Check all that apply in the second column.)*

Check Only ONE Main Activity	Check All Other Activities	Types of Activities
☐	☐	*a)* biking
☐	☐	*b)* camping
☐	☐	*c)* fishing
☐	☐	d) hiking/walking/trail use
☐	☐	*e)* whitewater boating/rafting
☐	☐	*f)* photography/painting
☐	☐	*g)* picnicking
☐	☐	*h)* relaxing
☐	☐	*i)* scenic driving
☐	☐	*j)* viewing scenery
☐	☐	*k)* viewing wildlife
☐	☐	*l)* other (please specify) _____

17. If you participated in a water-related activity, did the flows in the North Fork Kern River affect your ability participate?

    YES (select one): ☐ flow was too high ☐ flow was too low

    ☐ other (explain) _____

    ☐ NO: flow did not affect planned activities

    ☐ N/A: did not partake in water-related activity

18. How would you describe your weekly physical activity? (Select one)

    Low weekly activity **Moderate weekly activity** **High weekly activity**

19. The following question will be used to help estimate how recreation spending contributes to the local community, businesses, and economy. Your answer will be kept confidential.

    For your whole trip, how much do you expect to / did you spend in the local area*?

    $_____

    *Local includes towns within 50 miles, including Johnsondale, Roads End, Kernville, Wofford Heights, Mountain Mesa, Lake Isabella, South Lake, Weldon. *Please do not include expenditures at any other locations outside this area*. Include everything you bought (lodging, food, gas, equipment rentals/fees, etc.) or expect to buy before you go home. If there is more than one person in the party, please provide the <u>total</u> cost for your party, even if someone else paid for you, or you paid for someone else.

20. How would you rate your overall satisfaction or dissatisfaction with your recreation experience today on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating very dissatisfied and 5 indicating very satisfied? If not applicable, check N/A.

Next, rate the importance of each item to the overall quality of your recreation experience on this trip in the far-right column, with 1 being unimportant and 5 being very important.

	1 Very Dissatisfied	2 Dissatisfied	3 Neutral	4 Satisfied	5 Very Satisfied	N/A	Importance (1–5)
1. Overall satisfaction of your trip							
2. Satisfaction of your primary activity, as listed above in Q.16							
3. Cost of facility access fees							
4. River access							
5. Number of people encountered/crowdedness							
6. Available parking when you arrived							
7. Feeling of safety							
8. Adequacy of site access for persons with disabilities							
9. Scenery at this site/area							
10. Maintenance (physical condition) of facilities							
11. Cleanliness of facilities							
12. Access to restroom/shower/drinking water							
13. Informational/educational opportunities							
14. Flows in the river							

If you marked Very Dissatisfied (1) or Dissatisfied (2) for any above, please explain:

_____

Section 3 – Past Recreation Trips

21. In the last 12 months, have you visited any of the recreation sites listed in the table below? If yes, please indicate in the table the number of times you visited each site during each season; about how much time you typically spent at the site using minutes or hours; and the primary reason for your visit to the site(s).

    If you visited other sites between Johhsondale Bridge and the Kern River No. 3 Powerhouse not listed below, please list the site and complete the table.

Recreation Site	Number of Visits					Approximate Time On-site	Reason for Visit
	Spring (March–May)	Summer (Jun–Aug)	Fall (Sept–Nov)	Winter (Dec–Feb)	Total #		
Johnsondale Bridge River Access							
Brush Creek Dispersed Campground							
Limestone Campground							
Willow Point Whitewater Take-out							
Roads End Picnic Site and Whitewater Put-in							
Packsaddle Trail Trailhead							
Fairview Campground							
Whiskey Flat Trailhead							
Calkins Flat Dispersed Camping							
Chamise Dispersed Camping							
Rincon Trailhead							
Ant Canyon Dispersed Camping							
Old Goldledge Dispersed Camping							
Goldledge Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out							
Springhill Dispersed Camping							
Corral Creek Picnic Site and Whitewater Take-out							
Corral Creek Dispersed Camping							
Hospital Flat Campground							
Chico Flat Dispersed Camping							

Recreation Site	Number of Visits					Approximate Time On-site	Reason for Visit
	Spring (March–May)	Summer (Jun–Aug)	Fall (Sept–Nov)	Winter (Dec–Feb)	Total #		
Thunderbird Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out							
Camp 3 Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out							
Halfway Group Campground and Whitewater Put-in/Take-out							
Headquarters Campground							
Riverkern Beach Picnic Site							
KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put-in/Take-out							
Other:							

22. In the last 12 months, have you visited the area between the Fairview Dam and the Kern River No. 3 Powerhouse more, less, or about the same as you normally would? (Select one)

More **About the same** **Less**

What is the primary reason for the answer you gave?

_____

Section 4 – Surrounding Landscapes

23. How would you rate the scenic quality of the NFKR area in general on a scale of 1-5, with 1 indicating very poor and 5 indicating very good?

Scenic Features	1 Very Poor	2 Poor	3 Neutral	4 Good	5 Very Good
General Scenic quality of NFKR area					

If you rated Very Poor (1) or Poor (2), please explain:

_____

24. What is the scenic feature that most attracted you to this area of the NFKR? Select top feature:

    a. General scenery such as rock outcrops, mountains and valleys
    b. Flows in the North Fork Kern River
    c. Project infrastructure (flowline, Powerhouse, Dam, other built facilities)
    d. Other: please provide: _____
    e. Scenery was not a consideration when selecting this location

25. How would you rate the following scenic qualities in the area between Fairview Dam and the Kern River No. 3 Powerhouse on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating very poor and 5 indicating very good?

Scenic Features	1 Very Poor	2 Poor	3 Neutral	4 Good	5 Very Good
General scenery such as rock outcrops, mountains and valleys					
River flows between Fairview Dam and KR3 Powerhouse					
Project infrastructure (flowline, Powerhouse, Dam, other built facilities)					

If you rated Very Poor (1) or Poor (2) for any above, please explain:

_____

26. Over the past 12 months, how often have you visited the area to partake in photography, painting, scenic driving, viewing scenery, and/or viewing wildlife?

    a. Never _____
    b. This is my first time _____
    c. Spring (March–May) #____
    d. Summer (June–August) #_____
    e. Fall (September–November) #_____
    f. Winter (December–February) #_____

Section 5 – Angling Experiences

27. Have you fished along the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach before?

☐ YES (please respond to the following 5 questions)

☐ NO (skip to Section 6)

28. What type of fishing tackle do you typically use to fish in the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach? (Select all that apply)

Spin fish with Lures **Spin fish with Bait** **Fly fish**

29. Are you fishing for fun or to catch food to eat (circle one)? If you are planning to eat your fish but are mostly fishing for fun, please choose **Fun**. If you enjoy fishing but are mostly fishing to catch food, please choose **Food**.

Food **Fun**

30. What was your primary reason for selecting this location to fish?

_____

31. How often have you fished the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach in each season over the past 12 months?

    a. Spring (March–May) #____
    b. Summer (June–August) #_____
    c. Fall (September–November) #_____
    d. Winter (December–February) #_____

32. Have river flows affected your angling experience in the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach? ☐ YES ☐ NO

    If yes, please indicate in which season your experience has been affected and provide reason.

    a. Spring (March–May) ____ Reason: too low / too high / other: _____
    b. Summer (June–Aug) _____ Reason: too low / too high / other: _____
    c. Fall (Sept–Nov) _____ Reason: too low / too high / other: _____
    d. Winter (Dec–Feb) _____ Reason: too low / too high / other: _____

33. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very poor and 5 being very good, how would you rate the conditions of your angling experience today or on the day of your most recent angling experience between the Fairview Dam and the Kern River No. 3 Powerhouse.

Fishing Experience	1 Very Poor	2 Poor	3 Neutral	4 Good	5 Very Good
Presence of angling features/habitats (pools, runs, riffles, etc.) to fish					
Ability to access angling features/habitats for preferred fishing					
Speed of river flow					

If you rated Very Poor (1) or Poor (2) for any above, please explain:

_____

Section 6 – User Feedback

34. Are there any improvements that you would recommend for this site?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If yes, what improvements do you recommend?

_____

35. Do you believe that any additional recreation facilities (such as more single-family campgrounds, group campgrounds, parking areas, bathrooms, hiking trails, river launching areas, river access, information kiosks, etc.) are needed in the area between the Fairview Dam and the Kern River No. 3 Powerhouse?

If yes, please describe:

_____

36. Do you have any additional comments about this recreation site, including comments on existing or needed recreation facilities? (Please be as specific as possible.)

_____

_____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP! WE APPRECIATE YOUR TIME TODAY

APPENDIX B
ONLINE SURVEY FLYER

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Recreation User Survey

Southern California Edison (SCE) is conducting a Recreation Study as part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing of the Kern River No. 3 (P-2290) Hydroelectric Project. The survey can be completed on your mobile device or computer. Participation is voluntary and responses will remain anonymous.

The online survey can be accessed at:

www.SCE.com/kr3

or

The survey will be available from April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. Please only complete one survey per individual.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

Encuesta de usuarios de recreación

Southern California Edison (SCE) está realizando un estudio de recreación como parte de la renovación de la licencia de la Comisión Federal Reguladora de Energía del Proyecto Hidroeléctrico Kern River No. 3 (P-2290). La encuesta se puede completar en su dispositivo móvil o computadora. La participación es voluntaria y las respuestas permanecerán anónimas.

Se puede acceder a la encuesta en línea en:

www.SCE.com/kr3

o

La encuesta estará disponible desde el 1 de abril de 2023 hasta el 31 de marzo de 2024. Complete solo una encuesta por individuo.

¡Gracias de antemano por tu participación!

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APPENDIX C
FINAL SPOT COUNT FORM

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Date _____ **Temp** _____ **Observer Initials** _____

Weather Sunny Part Cloudy Cloudy Light Rain Heavy Rain (Note any weather changes during site visits)

Site Location	Time Hour/Min AM or PM	No. of Vehicles	Vehicle State Origin	Type/Number of Boat(s)*			No. of People Participating in											Total No. of People at Site	Comments/ General Description
				Individual Kayak	Commercial Boat	Other Watercraft	Biking	Camping	Fishing	Hiking/walking/trail use	White-water boating/rafting	Boating (non-motorized	Photography	Picnicking	Relaxing	Viewing Scenery	Viewing Wildlife	Other	

*as observed from water's edge approximately 50-100 feet upstream and downstream

Contact Information:

Additional notes/comments:

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APPENDIX D
FINAL CALIBRATION COUNT FORM

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Calibration Form						Site Name:														
Staff Person:			Date:			Time Start:						Time End:								
						Start Count:						End Count:								
Weekend or Weekday?						# of people participating in activity during visit														
Vehicle Description	License Plate	Trailer Y/N	Time in	Time out	Total # of People	Motor Boating	Non motor boating	Whitewater Boating	Camping	Fishing	Picnic	Walk/ Jog/ Hike	Hunt	Ride Horses	Ride Bikes	Sight See	Swim	Birding	Other Rec Use	Non Rec Use

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APPENDIX E
CONSULTATION LOG

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From: Jillian Roach
To: David Moore (David.Moore@sce.com)
Subject: FW: REC-2 Stakeholder Camera email
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 11:01:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

Hello Stakeholders

In accordance with Southern California Edison's (SCE's) REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment Study Plan, and modified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERCs) Study Plan Determination (SPD), SCE is providing the attached list, map, and description of the trail cameras that will be installed prior to the start of the 2023 Recreation field season. FERC's objective for the addition of the trail cameras was to "..record quantitative data and types of recreation use (e.g., number of visitors and how many visitors are anglers or kayakers) for the duration of time that they are installed."

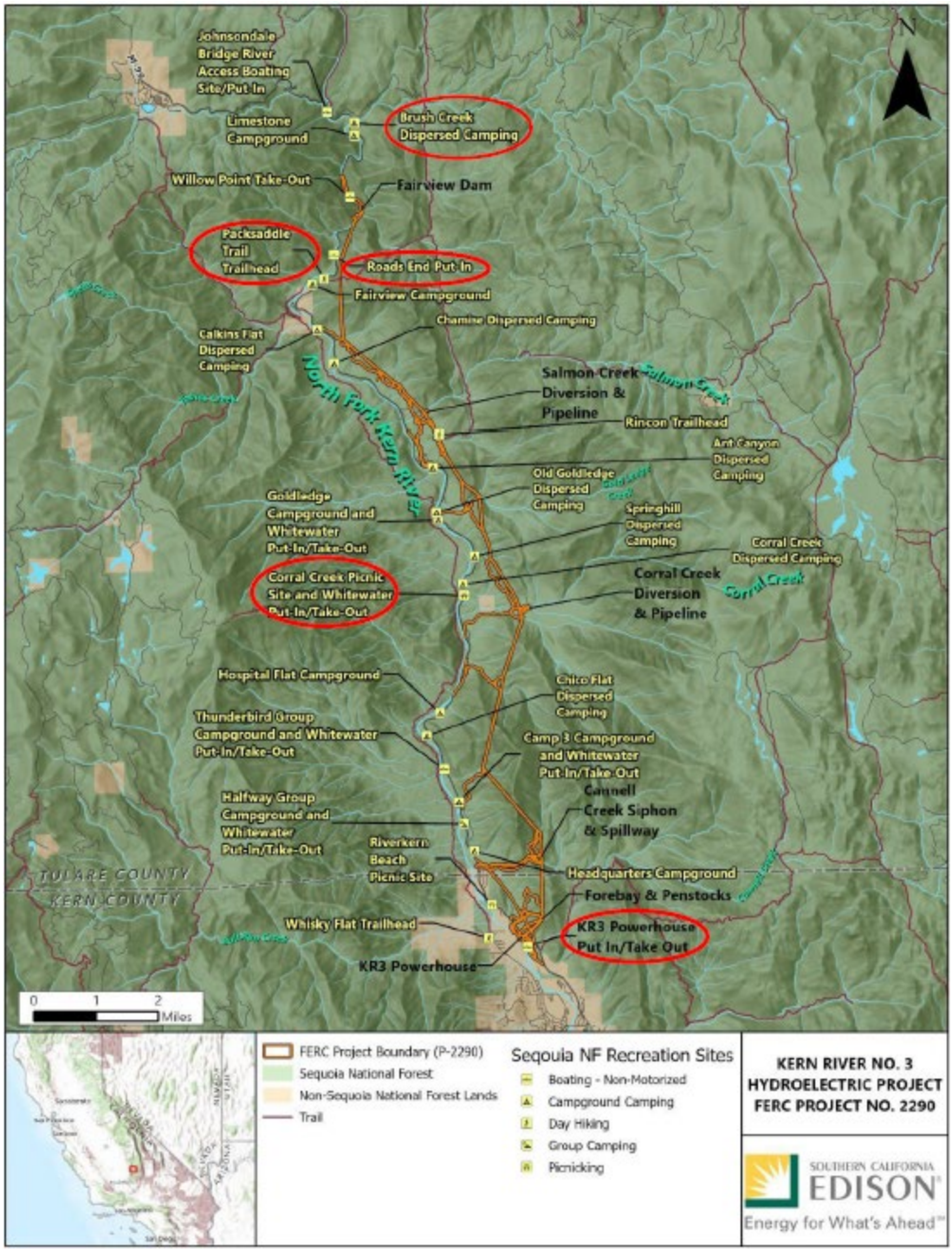
During a field reconnaissance effort to identify camera locations, it became apparent that due to the vast size, dispersed nature, and shoreline vegetation scattered throughout the majority of the recreation sites, installing a trail camera to collect quantitative data to meet FERC's objectives is problematic at all sites. However, SCE has identified five (5) representative recreation sites where a suitable vantage point was identified for trail camera installation. In an effort to achieve FERC's objectives, SCE is supplementing the spot counts proposed in the Revised Study Plan (RSP) to include calibration counts to develop a more complete and timely picture of how people are recreating throughout the Project Area over different times of the day and throughout the year. These will occur at each of the 25 recreation sites at randomly selected dates and times concurrently with the on-site visitor questionnaire survey days, as outlined in FERC's SPD (2 days per month and 9 holiday weekends).

The sites that have been selected for camera installation are as follows:

Brush Creek Dispersed Camping and Day Use
Road's End Picnic Area and Whitewater Put in
Packsaddle Trailhead
Corral Creek Dispersed Camping
KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put in/Take out

As stated in the RSP, SCE will obtain concessionaire data from the SQF to collect user count data at the fee based developed campgrounds.

Below is a map noting the camera locations.



If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me at David.moore@sce.com or 626-302-9494.

Jillian Roach

From:	Kern River Boaters
To:	David Moore
Cc:	Watson, Alfred -FS; Karen Miller; lilian_jonas@contractor.nps.gov; Jillian Roach; Angela Whelpley; Sanchez, Monique - FS; kevin@amwhitewater.org; ferccaseadmin@sce.com; kelly.henderson@sce.com; theresa simsiman; jgantenbein@waterpowerlaw.com; joshua.rider@usda.gov; rstork@friendsoftheriver.org; wayne.allen@sce.com; Martin Ostendorf; nicolas.von@sce.com; Mary Margaret Richardson; Cornelio Artienda; SOL-FERC@sol.doi.gov; mary.schickling@sce.com; patrick.le@sce.com; Jim Ahrens; brittany.arnold@sce.com; Alvarez, Dawn -FS; Miller, Karen -FS; lawrence elman; Jim Ahrens; Timothy McNeely; Kent Varvel; Hitchcock, Gerald - FS, KERNVILLE, CA; Desenze, Philip - FS; Leonard, Norman - FS, KERNVILLE, CA; Whitton, Kellie -FS; Jonas, Lilian M; Rosebrough-Jones, Susan E; Rice, Barbara M; Bowes, Stephen M; patrick.redmond@usda.gov; Leon, Abimael@Wildlife; Elgart, Stephen - FS, KERNVILLE, CA; Beal, Brian@Wildlife; Hansum, Chloe J; Hatler, Gerald@Wildlife; Vance, Julie@Wildlife; liz duxbury; Neil Nikirk; Quinn Emmering; scott toland
Subject:	Re: Kern River 3 (P-2290) REC-2 Study Plan Camera Information
Date:	Friday, March 17, 2023 4:52:03 PM
Attachments:	Screenshot 2023-03-17 at 4.46.49 PM.png image001.png

David,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Unfortunately, KRB must object to your choice of camera sites for REC-2.

One of KRB's positions, as stated during the study plan design process, is that an undeniable project effect is the forced concentration of NF Kern recreation out of the 16-mile dewatered reach and into the two-mile free-flowing section above Fairview Dam when flows in the diverted reach are artificially low and approaching fish flow. During those times, the riverside up to Fairview Dam is virtually bereft of parked cars or recreationalists; above the dam, the number of cars and people enjoying the river *noticeably and dramatically* increases. For instance, no parking lot below the dam is taxed at those times, whereas the parking lots above the dam at Willow Point and, most markedly, Johnsondale Bridge are vibrant and bustling — indeed, to the point of severe overflow. Local Forest and Sherriff staff can no doubt attest to this phenomenon. The only site you have chosen above the dam, Brush Creek, is not used as a NF Kern whitewater put-in or takeout by noncommercial boaters, and is only used by commercial outfitters when the Johnsondale Bridge loading zone is too crowded, or occasionally as a lunch site for paying guests. Your choice of sites accordingly suffers, in our view, from two major faults: (1) you have chosen the least active lot above Fairview Dam (Brush Creek) — which will obscure the real story at Johnsondale Bridge and Willow Point; (2) putting more cameras below Fairview Dam than above guarantees a distortion of the relative incidence of recreation above and below the dam. Your choices will accordingly not satisfy the Commission's desire to obtain a representative analysis of recreation on the NF Kern, thereby denying it and the agencies a meaningful understanding of project effects. We accordingly ask that the number of cameras above and below Fairview Dam be equalized, and that Johnsondale Bridge and Willow Point be included as camera sites above the dam, in that order of priority.

As for as your choice of locations below Fairview Dam, KRB notes the following: Road's End is not widely used as a whitewater put-in by noncommercial boaters (and is never used as a takeout by anyone); Packsaddle is neither a whitewater put-in nor takeout; Corral Creek Dispersed Camping site is infrequently used as a whitewater put-in or takeout given several preferred nearby locations for both; and the KR3 Powerhouse is also infrequently used as a whitewater takeout, given the more frequently used options of taking out at Riverkern Beach or Riverside Park. Your sites will accordingly not capture a representative sample of whitewater recreation in the diverted reach — even during the peak runoff season. To accomplish that, you should choose put-ins and takeouts that are as popular with the boaters of the diverted reach as the KR3 Powerhouse is with boaters of the undiverted reach, namely: Thunderbird, Calkins Flat, and Ant Canyon, in that order of priority. The first two are popular whitewater takeouts, as well, and all three attract

anglers.

We would welcome a meeting on these issues that includes Forest and other interested agency representatives.

Brett Duxbury
KERN RIVER BOATERS
Kernriverboaters.com/kr3
Fb.com/groups/kernriverboaters

A CALIFORNIA PUBLIC INTEREST NONPROFIT

On Mar 3, 2023, at 5:04 PM, David Moore <David.Moore@sce.com> wrote:

Hello Stakeholders,

In accordance with Southern California Edison's (SCE's) REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment Study Plan, and modified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERCs) Study Plan Determination (SPD), SCE is providing the attached list, map, and description of the trail cameras that will be installed prior to the start of the 2023 Recreation field season. FERC's objective for the addition of the trail cameras was to "..record quantitative data and types of recreation use (e.g., number of visitors and how many visitors are anglers or kayakers) for the duration of time that they are installed."

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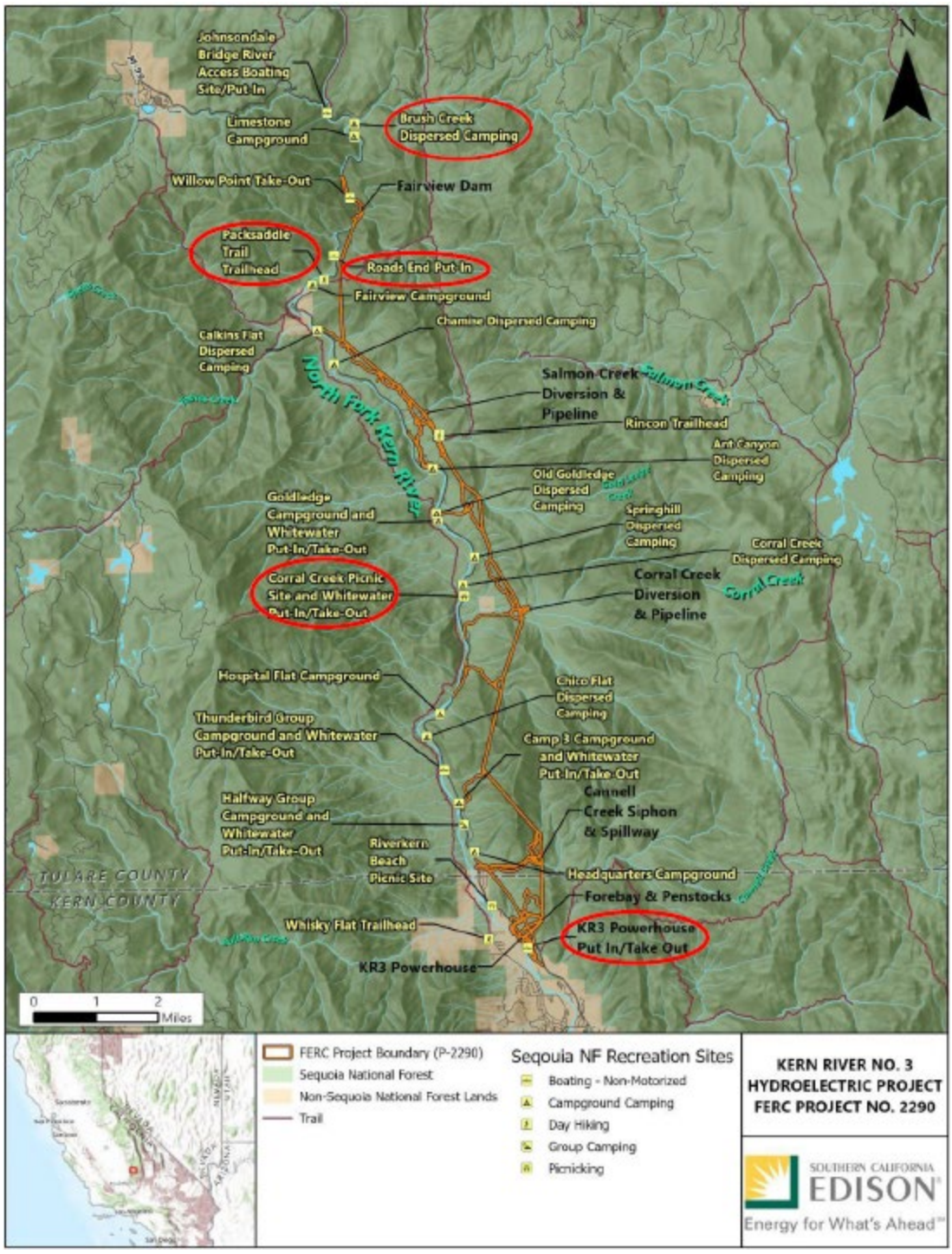

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me at David.moore@sce.com or 626-302-9494.

Best regards,

David Moore
Generation | Hydro Licensing
Southern California Edison
T. 626-302-9494 | M. 626-861-5918 (new)

From:	David Moore
To:	Kern River Boaters
Cc:	Watson, Alfred -FS; Karen Miller; lilian_jonas@contractor.nps.gov; Jillian Roach; Angela Whelpley; Sanchez, Monique - FS; kevin@amwhitewater.org; FERC Case Admin; Kelly Henderson; theresa simsiman; Julie Gantenbein; joshua.rider@usda.gov; rstork@friendsoftheriver.org; Wayne Allen; Martin Ostendorf; Nicolas Von Gersdorff; Mary Margaret Richardson; Cornelio Artienda; SOL-FERC@sol.doi.gov; Mary Schickling; Patrick B Le; Jim Ahrens; Brittany Arnold; Alvarez, Dawn -FS; Miller, Karen -FS; lawrence elman; Jim Ahrens; Timothy McNeely; Kent Varvel; Hitchcock, Gerald - FS, KERNVILLE, CA; Desenze, Philip - FS; Leonard, Norman - FS, KERNVILLE, CA; Whitton, Kellie -FS; Jonas, Lilian M; Rosebrough-Jones, Susan E; Rice, Barbara M; Bowes, Stephen M; patrick.redmond@usda.gov; Leon, Abimael@Wildlife; Elgart, Stephen - FS, KERNVILLE, CA; Beal, Brian@Wildlife; Hansum, Chloe J; Hatler, Gerald@Wildlife; Vance, Julie@Wildlife; liz duxbury; Neil Nikirk; Quinn Emmering; scott toland; Daniel Keverline
Subject:	RE: (External):Re: Kern River 3 (P-2290) REC-2 Study Plan Camera Information
Date:	Friday, March 24, 2023 2:58:23 PM
Attachments:	image002.png image003.png

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear Mr. Duxbury,

Thank you for your comments on the REC-2 Study Plan Camera Information and providing your observations about whitewater access on the NFKR.

As the focus of the REC-2 study is to look at all recreation use, the camera locations selected represent the different types of recreation sites and uses within the Project Area (i.e., day use/picnic, hiking, dispersed use, and river access). However, in response to your feedback regarding the number of cameras above and below Fairview Dam, SCE will install an additional camera at a recreation site above the dam, for a total of 6 sites (4 below and 2 above the dam) to capture a variety of recreation use in the Project Area. SCE increased the number of spot count survey days at all 25 recreation sites and added a calibration count study component, as noted in the March 3rd email below.

Thanks you for your time and interest in the KR3 relicensing process.

Best regards,
David Moore
Generation | Hydro Licensing
Southern California Edison
T. 626-302-9494 | M. 626-861-5918 (new)

From: Kern River Boaters <kernriverboaters@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 4:52 PM
To: David Moore <David.Moore@sce.com>
Cc: Watson, Alfred -FS <alfred.watson@usda.gov>; Karen Miller <karen.miller@usda.gov>; lilian_jonas@contractor.nps.gov; Jillian Roach <Jillian.Roach@erm.com>; Angela Whelpley <angela.whelpley@kleinschmidtgroup.com>; Sanchez, Monique - FS <monique.sanchez@usda.gov>; kevin@amwhitewater.org; FERC Case Admin <FERCCaseAdmin@sce.com>; Kelly Henderson <Kelly.Henderson@sce.com>; theresa simsiman <theresa@americanwhitewater.org>; Julie

Gantenbein <jgantenbein@waterpowerlaw.com>; joshua.rider@usda.gov; rstork@friendsoftheriver.org; Wayne Allen <Wayne.Allen@sce.com>; Martin Ostendorf <Martin.Ostendorf@sce.com>; Nicolas Von Gersdorff <Nicolas.Von@sce.com>; Meg Richardson <Mary.M.Richardson@sce.com>; Cornelio Artienda <Cornelio.Artienda@sce.com>; SOL-FERC@sol.doi.gov; Mary Schickling <Mary.Schickling@sce.com>; Patrick B Le <Patrick.le@sce.com>; Jim Ahrens <jimahrensmt@gmail.com>; Brittany Arnold <BRITTANY.ARNOLD@SCE.COM>; Alvarez, Dawn -FS <dawn.alvarez@usda.gov>; Miller, Karen -FS <karen.miller@usda.gov>; lawrence elman <larryelman@gmail.com>; Jim Ahrens <jim@jimahrensmt.com>; Timothy McNeely <tim@lifestoneco.com>; Kent Varvel <avarvel@att.net>; Hitchcock, Gerald - FS, KERNVILLE, CA <Gerald.Hitchcock@usda.gov>; Desenze, Philip - FS <philip.desenze@usda.gov>; Leonard, Norman - FS, KERNVILLE, CA <Norman.Leonard@usda.gov>; Whitton, Kellie -FS <kellie.whitton@usda.gov>; Jonas, Lilian M <lilian_jonas@contractor.nps.gov>; Rosebrough-Jones, Susan E <Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov>; Rice, Barbara M <Barbara_Rice@nps.gov>; Bowes, Stephen M <Stephen_Bowes@nps.gov>; patrick.redmond@usda.gov; Leon, Abimael@Wildlife <Abimael.Leon@wildlife.ca.gov>; Elgart, Stephen - FS, KERNVILLE, CA <Stephen.Elgart@usda.gov>; Beal, Brian@Wildlife <Brian.Beal@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hansum, Chloe J <chloe_hansum@fws.gov>; Hatler, Gerald@Wildlife <Gerald.Hatler@wildlife.ca.gov>; Vance, Julie@Wildlife <Julie.Vance@wildlife.ca.gov>; liz duxbury <lizbrackbill@gmail.com>; Neil Nikirk <nnikirk62@gmail.com>; Quinn Emmering <quinn.emmering@ferc.gov>; scott toland <scottmtoland@gmail.com>
Subject: (External):Re: Kern River 3 (P-2290) REC-2 Study Plan Camera Information

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KERN RIVER BOATERS
Kernriverboaters.com/kr3
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KERN RIVER BOATERS
A CALIFORNIA PUBLIC INTEREST NONPROFIT

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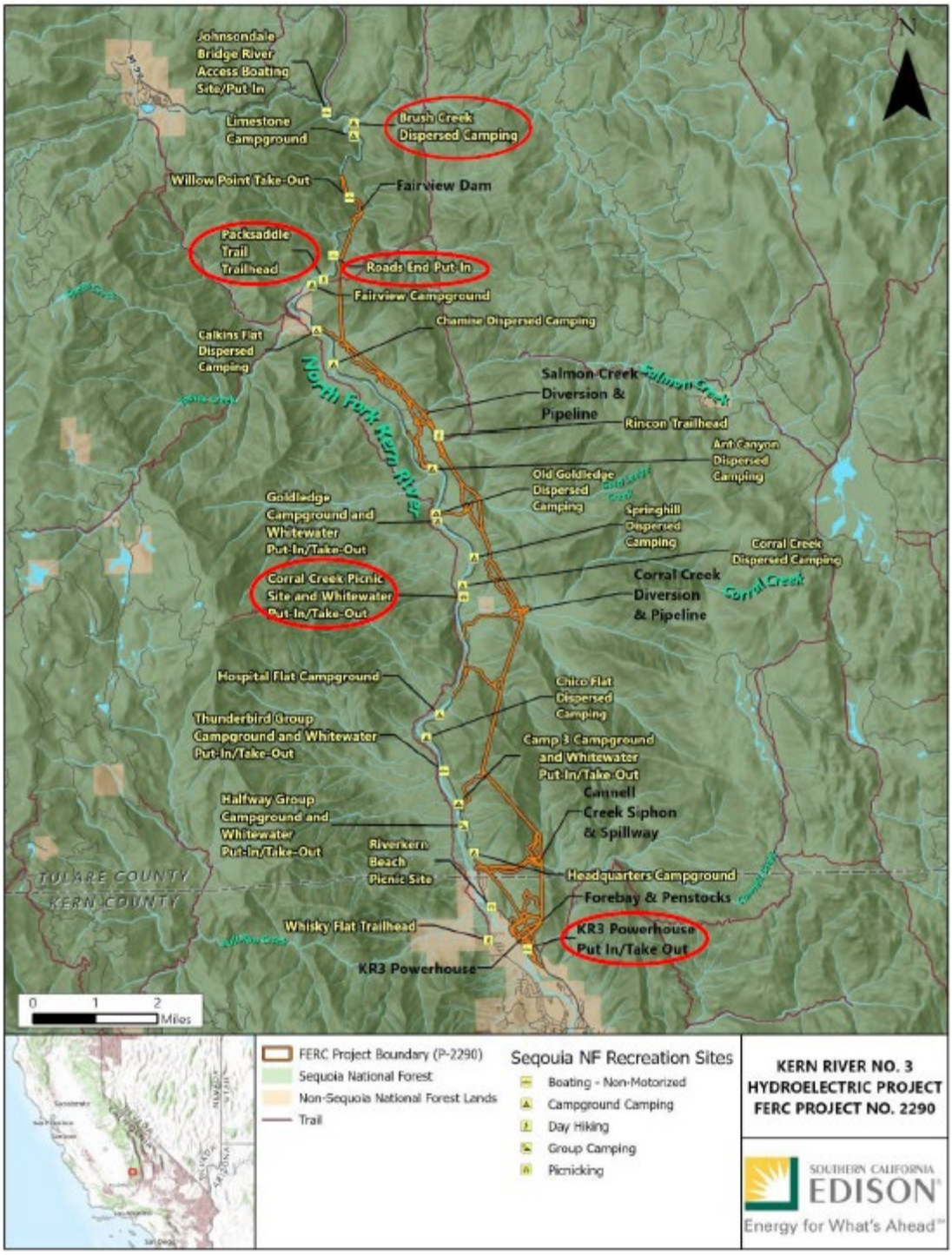

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David Moore
Generation | Hydro Licensing
Southern California Edison

T. 626-302-9494 | M. 626-861-5918 (new)

From:	Kern River Boaters
To:	David Moore
Cc:	Watson, Alfred -FS; Karen Miller; lilian_jonas@contractor.nps.gov; Jillian Roach; Angela Whelpley; Sanchez, Monique - FS; kevin@amwhitewater.org; FERC Case Admin; Kelly Henderson; theresa simsiman; Julie Gantenbein; joshua.rider@usda.gov; rstork@friendsoftheriver.org; Wayne Allen; Martin Ostendorf; Nicolas Von Gersdorff; Mary Margaret Richardson; Cornelio Artienda; SOL-FERC@sol.doi.gov; Mary Schickling; Patrick B Le; Jim Ahrens; Brittany Arnold; Alvarez, Dawn -FS; lawrence elman; Jim Ahrens; Timothy McNeely; Kent Varvel; Hitchcock, Gerald - FS, KERNVILLE, CA; Desenze, Philip - FS; Leonard, Norman - FS, KERNVILLE, CA; Whitton, Kellie -FS; Rosebrough-Jones, Susan E; Rice, Barbara M; Bowes, Stephen M; patrick.redmond@usda.gov; Leon, Abimael@Wildlife; Elgart, Stephen - FS, KERNVILLE, CA; Beal, Brian@Wildlife; Hansum, Chloe J; Hatler, Gerald@Wildlife; Vance, Julie@Wildlife; liz duxbury; Neil Nikirk; Quinn Emmering; scott toland; Geno Hacker; dennis rushing
Subject:	Re: (External):Re: Kern River 3 (P-2290) REC-2 Study Plan Camera Information
Date:	Friday, March 31, 2023 4:45:58 PM
Attachments:	image002.png image002.png image003.png

David,

We understand that the study determination seeks data on multiple forms of recreation, and we support that goal. However, the FERC study process requires methodologies accepted by contemporary science, which in this case require a fair representation of recreation on the Upper Kern. The fact that your project impairs multiple forms of recreation is not a valid reason to weaken the requirement that each of those forms be fairly represented in the study.

To ensure fair representation, the determination recommended the installation of cameras at between 26 and 30 sites. (Determination at B28-B29 [“22 recreation sites” in the dewatered reach, plus those needed for the “developed and dispersed campgrounds, day-use areas, river access points, and trailheads that provide river access along the approximately 1.9- mile-long reach of the NFKR upstream of the project boundary“].) You have proposed decreasing the number of sites to 6. (Note also that the determination envisioned multiple “cameras” *at each site* to collect the data; you are proposing but a single camera at many less sites.) Your number of sites is both inadequate to cover the multiple forms of recreation identified for study and is skewed against whitewater. You have chosen to establish a camera at the project powerhouse, which is a popular whitewater put-in due to the easiness of the run, its closeness to town, the lack of Forest Service regulation, and the absence of project effect (that is where the project returns water to the river). You cannot obtain a fair representation of whitewater recreation above the powerhouse — both in the dewatered reach and in the two miles above Fairview Dam — by simultaneously *excluding* cameras at the most popular put-ins, which you have chosen to do. At a minimum, a fair representation would require cameras at the main whitewater put-in above Fairview Dam — Johnsondale Bridge — as well as at popular put-ins for the dewatered reach below the dam, which KRB identified in our prior note, and which *were included in the 22 sites envisioned by the determination*. A fair representation would also include a camera at Willow Point, where, like at Johnsondale Bridge, overuse and over-crowdedness from multiple forms of recreation are likely to occur when project operations depress flows below Fairview Dam towards the current environmental minimums. The determination plainly reflects staff intent to collect data “comprehensive enough to ensure staff has adequate information to analyze environmental effects and inform license conditions [sections 5.9(b)(4) and (5)].” (Determination at B29.) Your choices to date threaten that objective.

Even if you include the sites we have identified, you are left with far less than half the number envisioned in the determination. In our opinion, that merits a commensurate increase of spot counts and survey days — in addition to your calibration counts (please provide a description of your calibration methodology) — both above and below Fairview Dam throughout the study year in order to accomplish the study’s objectives. Otherwise, the timing of that field data might come into question, notwithstanding your assertion that dates will be chosen “randomly.” We remain willing to discuss these matters with you and any other interested

parties further.

Brett Duxbury
KERN RIVER BOATERS
Kernriverboaters.com/kr3
Fb.com/groups/kernriverboaters

A CALIFORNIA PUBLIC INTEREST NONPROFIT

On Mar 24, 2023, at 2:58 PM, David Moore <David.Moore@sce.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Duxbury,

Thank you for your comments on the REC-2 Study Plan Camera Information and providing your observations about whitewater access on the NFKR.

As the focus of the REC-2 study is to look at all recreation use, the camera locations selected represent the different types of recreation sites and uses within the Project Area (i.e., day use/picnic, hiking, dispersed use, and river access). However, in response to your feedback regarding the number of cameras above and below Fairview Dam, SCE will install an additional camera at a recreation site above the dam, for a total of 6 sites (4 below and 2 above the dam) to capture a variety of recreation use in the Project Area. SCE increased the number of spot count survey days at all 25 recreation sites and added a calibration count study component, as noted in the March 3rd email below.

Thanks you for your time and interest in the KR3 relicensing process.

Best regards,
David Moore
Generation | Hydro Licensing
Southern California Edison
T. 626-302-9494 | M. 626-861-5918 (new)

From: Kern River Boaters <kernriverboaters@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 4:52 PM
To: David Moore <David.Moore@sce.com>
Cc: Watson, Alfred -FS <alfred.watson@usda.gov>; Karen Miller <karen.miller@usda.gov>; lilian_jonas@contractor.nps.gov; Jillian Roach <Jillian.Roach@erm.com>; Angela Whelpley <angela.whelpley@kleinschmidtgroup.com>; Sanchez, Monique - FS <monique.sanchez@usda.gov>;kevin@amwhitewater.org; FERC Case Admin <FERCCaseAdmin@sce.com>; Kelly Henderson <Kelly.Henderson@sce.com>; theresa

simsiman <theresa@americanwhitewater.org>; Julie Gantenbein <jgantenbein@waterpowerlaw.com>; joshua.rider@usda.gov; rstork@friendsoftheriver.org; Wayne Allen <Wayne.Allen@sce.com>; Martin Ostendorf <Martin.Ostendorf@sce.com>; Nicolas Von Gersdorff <Nicolas.Von@sce.com>; Meg Richardson <Mary.M.Richardson@sce.com>; Cornelio Artienda <Cornelio.Artienda@sce.com>; SOL-FERC@sol.doi.gov; Mary Schickling <Mary.Schickling@sce.com>; Patrick B Le <Patrick.le@sce.com>; Jim Ahrens <jimahrensmt@gmail.com>; Brittany Arnold <BRITTANY.ARNOLD@SCE.COM>; Alvarez, Dawn -FS <dawn.alvarez@usda.gov>; Miller, Karen -FS <karen.miller@usda.gov>; lawrence elman <larryelman@gmail.com>; Jim Ahrens <jim@jimahrensmt.com>; Timothy McNeely <tim@lifestoneco.com>; Kent Varvel <avarvel@att.net>; Hitchcock, Gerald - FS, KERNVILLE, CA <Gerald.Hitchcock@usda.gov>; Desenze, Philip - FS <philip.desenze@usda.gov>; Leonard, Norman - FS, KERNVILLE, CA <Norman.Leonard@usda.gov>; Whitton, Kellie -FS <kellie.whitton@usda.gov>; Jonas, Lilian M <lilian_jonas@contractor.nps.gov>; Rosebrough-Jones, Susan E <Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov>; Rice, Barbara M <Barbara_Rice@nps.gov>; Bowes, Stephen M <Stephen_Bowes@nps.gov>; patrick.redmond@usda.gov; Leon, Abimael@Wildlife <Abimael.Leon@wildlife.ca.gov>; Elgart, Stephen - FS, KERNVILLE, CA <Stephen.Elgart@usda.gov>; Beal, Brian@Wildlife <Brian.Beal@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hansum, Chloe J <chloe_hansum@fws.gov>; Hatler, Gerald@Wildlife <Gerald.Hatler@wildlife.ca.gov>; Vance, Julie@Wildlife <Julie.Vance@wildlife.ca.gov>; liz duxbury <lizbrackbill@gmail.com>; Neil Nikirk <nnikirk62@gmail.com>; Quinn Emmering <quinn.emmering@ferc.gov>; scott toland <scottmtoland@gmail.com>
Subject: (External):Re: Kern River 3 (P-2290) REC-2 Study Plan Camera Information

David,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Unfortunately, KRB must object to your choice of camera sites for REC-2.

One of KRB's positions, as stated during the study plan design process, is that an undeniable project effect is the forced concentration of NF Kern recreation out of the 16-mile dewatered reach and into the two-mile free-flowing section above Fairview Dam when flows in the diverted reach are artificially low and approaching fish flow. During those times, the riverside up to Fairview Dam is virtually bereft of parked cars or recreationalists; above the dam, the number of cars and people enjoying the river *noticeably and dramatically* increases. For instance, no parking lot below the dam is taxed at those times, whereas the parking lots above the dam at Willow Point and, most markedly, Johnsondale Bridge are vibrant and bustling — indeed, to the point of severe overflow. Local Forest and Sherriff staff can no doubt attest to this phenomenon. The only site you have chosen above the dam, Brush Creek, is not used as a NF Kern whitewater put-in or takeout by noncommercial boaters, and is only used by commercial outfitters when the Johnsondale Bridge loading zone is too crowded, or occasionally as a lunch site for paying guests. Your choice of sites accordingly suffers, in our view, from two major faults: (1) you have chosen the least active lot above Fairview Dam (Brush Creek) — which will obscure the real story at Johnsondale Bridge and Willow Point; (2) putting more cameras below Fairview Dam than above guarantees a distortion of the relative incidence of recreation above and below the dam. Your choices will accordingly not satisfy the Commission's desire to obtain a representative analysis of recreation on the NF Kern, thereby

denying it and the agencies a meaningful understanding of project effects. We accordingly ask that the number of cameras above and below Fairview Dam be equalized, and that Johnsondale Bridge and Willow Point be included as camera sites above the dam, in that order of priority.

As for as your choice of locations below Fairview Dam, KRB notes the following: Road's End is not widely used as a whitewater put-in by noncommercial boaters (and is never used as a takeout by anyone); Packsaddle is neither a whitewater put-in nor takeout; Corral Creek Dispersed Camping site is infrequently used as a whitewater put-in or takeout given several preferred nearby locations for both; and the KR3 Powerhouse is also infrequently used as a whitewater takeout, given the more frequently used options of taking out at Riverkern Beach or Riverside Park. Your sites will accordingly not capture a representative sample of whitewater recreation in the diverted reach — even during the peak runoff season. To accomplish that, you should choose put-ins and takeouts that are as popular with the boaters of the diverted reach as the KR3 Powerhouse is with boaters of the undiverted reach, namely: Thunderbird, Calkins Flat, and Ant Canyon, in that order of priority. The first two are popular whitewater takeouts, as well, and all three attract anglers.

We would welcome a meeting on these issues that includes Forest and other interested agency representatives.

Brett Duxbury
KERN RIVER BOATERS
Kernriverboaters.com/kr3
Fb.com/groups/kernriverboaters

KERN RIVER BOATERS
A CALIFORNIA PUBLIC INTEREST NONPROFIT

> On Mar 3, 2023, at 5:04 PM, David Moore <David.Moore@sce.com> wrote:
>
> Hello Stakeholders,
>
> In accordance with Southern California Edison's (SCE's) REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment Study Plan, and modified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERCs) Study Plan Determination (SPD), SCE is providing the attached list, map, and description of the trail cameras that will be installed prior to the start of the 2023 Recreation field season. FERC's objective for the addition of the trail cameras was to "..record quantitative data and types of recreation use (e.g., number of visitors and how many visitors are anglers or kayakers) for the duration of time that they are installed."
>
> During a field reconnaissance effort to identify camera locations, it became apparent that due to the vast size, dispersed nature, and shoreline vegetation scattered throughout the majority of the recreation sites,

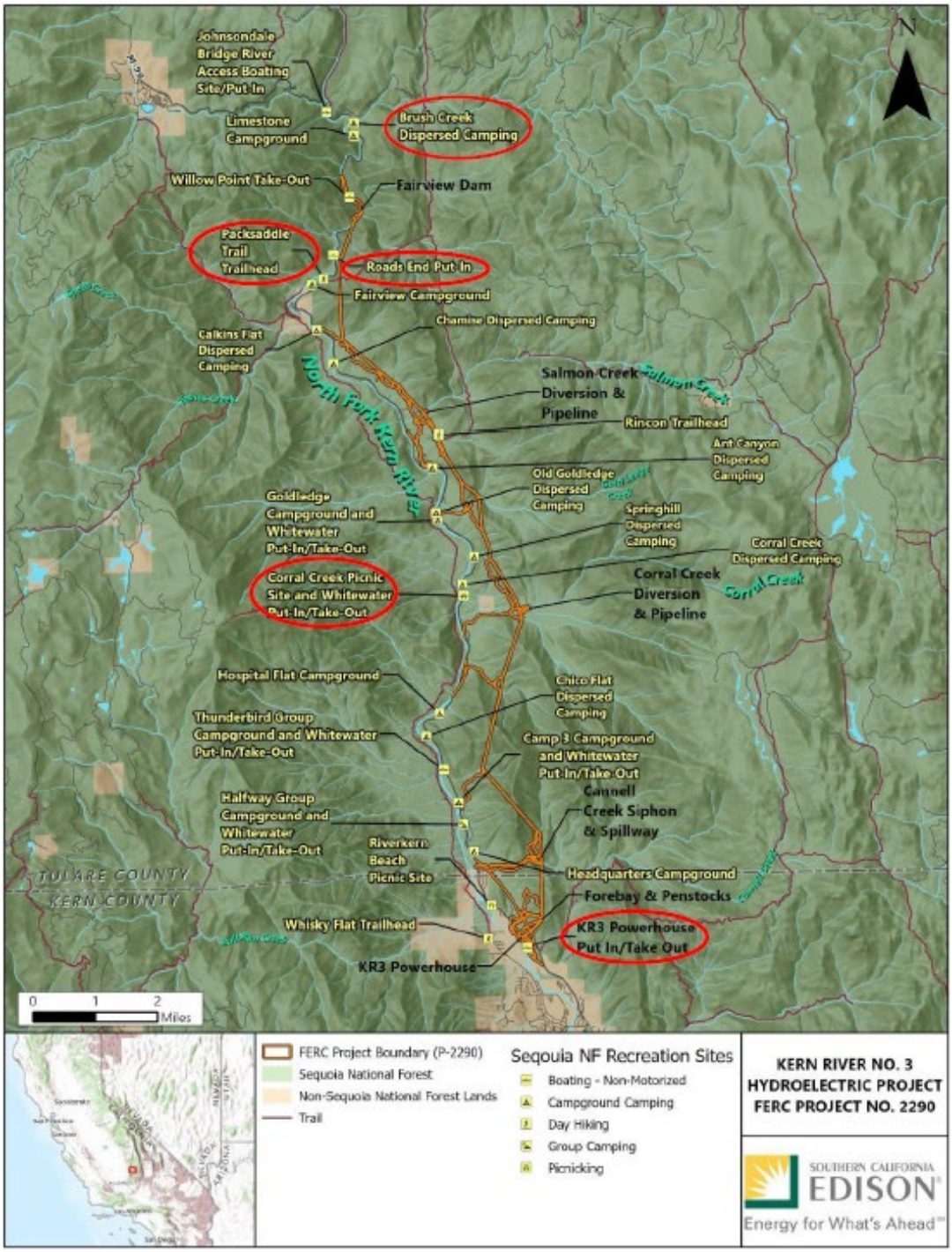
installing a trail camera to collect quantitative data to meet FERC's objectives is problematic at all sites. However, SCE has identified five (5) representative recreation sites where a suitable vantage point overlooking the sites was identified for trail camera installation. In an effort to achieve FERC's objectives, SCE is supplementing the spot counts proposed in the Revised Study Plan (RSP) to include calibration counts to develop a more complete and timely picture of how people are recreating throughout the Project Area over different times of the day and throughout the year. These will occur at each of the 25 recreation sites at randomly selected dates and times concurrently with the on-site visitor questionnaire survey days, as outlined in FERC's SPD (2 days per month and 9 holiday weekends).

The sites that have been selected for camera installation are as follows:

Brush Creek Dispersed Camping and Day Use
Road's End Picnic Area and Whitewater Put in
Packsaddle Trailhead
Corral Creek Dispersed Camping
KR3 Powerhouse Whitewater Put in/Take out

As stated in the RSP, SCE will obtain concessionaire data from the SQF to collect user count data at the fee based developed campgrounds.

Below is a map noting the camera locations.



If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me at David.moore@sce.com or 626-302-9494.

Best regards,

David Moore
Generation | Hydro Licensing
Southern California Edison
T. 626-302-9494 | M. 626-861-5918 (new)

To: Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest
From: Advenco / ExplorUS
Date: May 24, 2023
Re: Response to Kern River No. 3 Recreation Study, Developed Campground Camera Locations

ExplorUS requests that the cameras and signage pertaining to cameras be taken down immediately in the following campgrounds on the Sequoia National Forest. ExplorUS will not assume any liability for complaints and/or lawsuits pertaining to said cameras.

- Limestone Campground
- Fairview Campground
- Goldledge Campground
- Hospital Flat Campground
- Camp 3 Campground
- Camp 3 Whitewater Access
- Thunderbird Campground
- Thunderbird Day-Use/Whitewater Access
- Halfway Group Campground
- Halfway Group Day-Use/Whitewater Access
- Headquarters Campground

California State Law:

- California is a two-party consent state, which means you must get permission from all involved parties before making your recording. Failure to do so might have significant legal ramifications. Note that, while the law refers to “two-party” consent, every participant on camera must give their permission if more than two people are present at the time of the filming.

Other Provisions Under California Video Recording Law:

- In California, it is also illegal to film someone while they are in a location with any reasonable expectation of privacy, such as a bedroom, bathroom, locker room, fitting room or medical office.

When it comes to the topic of filming in a location with any reasonable expectation of privacy, this is a very gray area concerning campsites that visitors pay to stay, which we will not allow ourselves to be exposed to due to cameras in the campgrounds.

This is also currently in violation of any employee that Advenco/ExplorUS has working in these campgrounds, as they have not consented to be recorded.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sighel
VP – Forest Operations
ExplorUS
(913) 220-1258
ksighel@goexplorus.com

USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Sequoia National Forest
Giant Sequoia National Monument
220 East Morton Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257-9353
(559) 784-1500
(559) 781-6650 TDD

File Code: 2300/2700
Date: August 21, 2023

David Moore
Southern California Edison
David.Moore@sce.com

RE: Kern River No. 3 Recreation Study, Developed Campground Cameras

Dear Southern California Edison Representatives:

It has come to my attention that Southern California Edison (SCE) has installed video cameras at several Sequoia National Forest campgrounds in an attempt to gather data for completion of the recreation study required as part of the Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project relicensing. Video cameras were installed in the following campgrounds:

- Limestone Campground
- Fairview Campground
- Goldledge Campground
- Hospital Flat Campground
- Camp 3 Campground
- Camp 3 Whitewater Access
- Thunderbird Campground
- Thunderbird Day-Use/Whitewater Access
- Halfway Group Campground
- Halfway Group Day-Use/Whitewater Access
- Headquarters Campground

These campgrounds are managed by ExplorUS, Sequoia National Forest's campground concessionaire, under Special Use Permit. ExplorUS has requested that the cameras and related signage be removed immediately due to potential liability for complaints and/or lawsuits. It can be reasonably argued that installation of video cameras in campgrounds are in violation of California's two-party consent law, affecting paying visitors and ExplorUS employees, in which permission and consent from all parties being filmed must be obtained and may violate reasonable expectation of privacy that paying visitors may have while staying in campgrounds.

In order to avoid exposing ExplorUS and the Sequoia National Forest to potential legal ramifications, I am requesting that SCE remove any and all cameras currently installed in Sequoia National Forest campgrounds immediately.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please contact Karen Miller, Public Services Staff Officer, Karen.Miller@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Teresa Benson

TERESA BENSON
Forest Supervisor

CC: Karen Miller, Arvind Bhuta, Eric Lundgren, Nicole Holland

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