



# Meeting Notes

Project: Loup River Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 1256	
Subject: Study 8.0: Recreation Use	
Meeting Date: February 11, 2010 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Meeting Location: Loup Power District Office – Columbus, NE
Notes by: HDR	

## Attendees:

Quinn Damgaard – HDR Engineering  
Jim Frear – Loup Power District  
Mike Gutzmer – New Century Environmental  
Rick Holland – Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
Keith Hurley – Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
Kevin Pope – Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
Jeff Schuckman – Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
Dave Tunink – Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
Ron Ziola – Loup Power District

## Meeting Overview:

Per the request of NGPC during a similar meeting held January 14, 2009, a supplemental meeting was held between the Loup Power District (the District), HDR Engineering (HDR), the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), the Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and New Century Environmental (NCE) to finalize methods for data collection activities associate with Study 8.0: Recreation Use.

## Meeting Agenda:

1. Finalize Methods for the Rec/Creel Survey along the Loup Power Canal
2. Establish Methods for the Rec Survey along the Loup River Bypass Reach

## Discussion:

The meeting began with introductions and project background. Following extensive discussion on data collection methods and how the discussed methods would affect data analysis, the following outcomes and final methods were determined.

### 1. Loup River Power Canal Recreation Survey Methods

A Progressive Count Bus-Route Creel/Rec Survey will be performed along the Canal in accordance with the following details:

- Survey will follow the randomized schedule produced by NGPC during the meeting (attached)
  - May 1 through October 31 – 6 weekdays and 4 weekend days per month
  - Creel survey must follow the developed schedule and will not be performed on July 4 or Labor Day (September 6) – A recreation only survey will be performed on these days in accordance with the FERC's Study Plan Determination
  - Survey will begin at the exact start time for the specified period during the appropriate month.

- Survey will use one team of two proctors on weekdays and two teams of two proctors on weekends and holidays.
- Survey will start from either the Headworks or the Tailrace (as specified in the NGPC-prepared schedule) and not in the middle of the Canal.
  - Facilitates logistics difficulties associated with starting in the middle of the canal and then back tracking.
  - Adequate randomization will be achieved by altering between two periods and two start points.
- Canal will be divided into four segments (consistent with those shown in Study 9.0 Creel Survey as presented in the District's Proposed Study Plan). This division is for analysis purposes only and will be recorded on both creel count sheets (one count sheet will be completed for each survey day and the four rows will be used to differentiate counts between the four segments) and interview forms.
  - Headworks to Monroe Powerhouse
  - Monroe Powerhouse to 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Columbus Powerhouse
  - Columbus Powerhouse to Tailrace Park
  - Proctors will record lat/long coordinate of counts/interviews on appropriate forms.
- Survey will be limited to portions of the Canal that are accessible by vehicle.
  - Users do not stray far from their vehicles – use in areas where vehicular access is restricted is considered negligible.
- Proctors will have the entire survey period (6.5 – 7.5 hours) to cover the entire Canal
  - Proctors are to use their best judgment while progressing along the Canal to assure that the entire Canal is surveyed within the specified period. Noted that the most pressure will occur at the Headworks, Tailrace, Siphons, Powerhouses, and Lake North.
  - Counts and interviews can not occur outside of the designated Period.
  - No specific time restrictions will be applied to the four segments listed above.
  - If proctors complete the survey of the entire Canal ahead of the Period End Time, proctors can then go back and pick up additional interviews; however, no additional counts would be performed.
  - No user will be counted or interviewed more than once in a given period
- All non-English speaking users will be counted
  - Attempts will be made to interview. Potential that the children of the group might speak English sufficient to complete an interview.
  - No incomplete interview forms will be submitted.
  - No special accommodations (bi-lingual proctor or survey forms written in Spanish) are required.
- As-designed, the survey can be entered into existing NGPC software
  - LPD/HDR/NCE will perform all data collection and data entry (data entry will be performed as it is collected and hard copy forms will be filed and maintained).
  - NGPC will run output analysis

## 2. Loup River Bypass Reach Recreation Survey Methods

Attendees discussed the scope of the survey that would be adequate to address the intent of collecting recreational use data along the Bypass Reach. It was generally agreed upon that a survey, much abbreviated to that which will be performed on the canal, is adequate, and that data should be collected and analyzed during two periods: 1) pre-irrigation diversion: May 1 – July 15, and 2) post-irrigation diversion: July 15 – September 30. Methods by which the data will be collected were also discussed. The following provides greater detail on this discussion:

- The survey will be performed on 10 days (6 weekdays and 4 weekend days) during each of the two periods specified above.
- The survey could be performed at publicly-accessible locations along the Bypass Reach or via use of an airboat.
  - The District made no commitment to which method it would employ
  - If the access-point method is used, mail-back surveys would be left on vacant vehicles to supplement data collected from interviewed users.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:30 PM.

### Action Items:

Who	Task	Date Assigned
NGPC	Provide the applicable NGPC software for data entry	2/15/10
LPD/HDR/NCE	Coordinate with NGPC to determine randomized schedule for bypass reach survey days.	2/15/10
LPD/HDR/NCE	Finalize Bypass Reach Study Plan and provide to agencies for review.	2/15/10