

Subject: Recreation/Land Use/Aesthetics Work Group Study Plans	
Client: Loup Power District	
Project: FERC Relicensing	Project No:
Meeting Date: 12/19/08	Meeting Location: conference call
Notes by: Ellen Fitzsimmons	

Attendees:

Mary Brown, Stern and Plover Conservation Partnership
Jim Frear, Loup Power District
Randy Thoreson, National Parks Service
Dave Tunink, NE Game and Parks
Ron Ziola, Loup Power District

Quinn Damgaard, HDR
Ellen Fitzsimmons, HDR
Matt Pillard, HDR
George Waldow, HDR

Topics Discussed:

Update on Relicensing Process

- FERC has scheduled the scoping visit for Jan. 12th and 13th.
- On the 12th, Loup will offer a tour of the Project from 9 AM to 3 PM. Those interested in attending should contact Ron Ziola.
- The public scoping meeting will be held in Columbus on the 12th at 7 PM.
- The agency scoping meeting will be held in Columbus on the 13th at 9 AM. (The public may attend, but this meeting will be structured for agency input.)
- Study requests are due to FERC on February 20th.

Creel Survey

- It is important to conduct the creel survey May through September. FERC will not issue official approval of study plans until Sept 2009. The study must be completed by 2011 at the latest.
- There is some risk in continuing with the study prior to final FERC approval, but due to seasonal constraints and the relative importance of the creel study, it may be worth conducting the survey in 2009.
- Study timing should be discussed with FERC during the scoping meetings.
- The creel survey and recreation survey are closely related. The timing of the studies should be coordinated to maximize efficiency.

Land Use Inventory

- Land ownership is not as important as land use.
- Land uses can be identified with aerial photography and then field checked.
- Land uses surrounding public access points to the Project Boundary will be inventoried and assessed to identify any access issues, conflicts or opportunities.
- The Project Boundary scale used in Figure 4-1 in the PAD can be used for the inventory.
- Conventional land use designations will be used except where additional detail is needed to explain a land use conflict or opportunity. More specific land uses inside the Project Boundary will also be identified in detail when a single designation of "Project Boundary" is not adequate to describe the type of use or potential conflict or opportunity.

[Subject]
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Recreation Survey

- Is a recreation survey adequate at this point in the relicensing process or is an entire recreation plan needed?
- Loup believes they have provided recreation facilities to meet the perceived demand. The survey will allow Loup to test this assumption. Loup is planning to complete a Form 80 recreation inventory in 2009.
- It is likely that FERC will require a complete recreation plan be completed as part of the relicensing. In order to complete a recreation plan, findings from other studies will also be needed (creel, environmental, etc.). Carrying out a recreation plan without other study findings may be premature. The survey findings will be used to identify key topics for a future recreation plan.
- Scoping discussions with FERC should address these questions of recreation survey topics and timing.
- Other important issues to be covered in the recreation survey are: type of use (bird watching, hiking, camping, boating, etc.), frequency of use, most commonly used facilities, distance traveled, improvement, key locations, and condition of facilities.

Aesthetics

- In general, the Project is considered attractive and well maintained. It creates a natural greenway through Nance and Platte Counties.
- The few identified issues are: cut banks along canal, rip-rap, vandalism, littering.
- Aesthetic issues may emerge as part of the historic designation.
- During the scoping meetings FERC should be asked which study would be the appropriate vehicle for approaching aesthetics issues.

Other Items

- The corrected Section 6 was sent to Randy and Mary.
- A potential conflict between Off-Road Vehicle Park and the birds in the North Sand Management Area.
- Cut bank use at borrow sites will be evaluated to avoid disrupting nesting swallows.