However, the land-based recreation facilities at the Afterbay, and patrol and security of those facilities and the Afterbay surface, have historically been the responsibility of DWR. Other recreation facilities exist outside but adjacent to the current project boundary, most notably DPR's Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA), DFG's Rabe Road Shooting Range, and the Feather River Recreation and Park District's (FRRPD) Riverbend Park and Bedrock Park.

As licensee, DWR currently has license responsibilities for facilities and designated recreation areas within the project boundary. DWR has agreements and supporting State legislation designating DPR and DFG to manage most recreational facilities and wildlife resources and areas within the project boundary. DPR has statutory management responsibilities at Lake Oroville, Diversion Pool, and Thermalito Forebay; DFG has statutory responsibilities at Thermalito Afterbay and the OWA. Several of the existing management agreements may need to be amended or otherwise superseded as a result of this RMP. Additional new agreements with DPR, DFG, and others may need to be negotiated to fully implement the RMP.

1.1 RECREATION PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS

Recreation is one of the purposes of the SWP and thus a purpose of the Oroville Facilities. However, recreation benefits are developed and managed subordinate to other primary purposes and other environmental constraints, and a review of this operating environment is important in understanding the context and role of recreation in the Oroville Facilities area.

1.1.1 General Operations

Operation of the Oroville Facilities varies seasonally, weekly, and hourly, depending on hydrology and the objectives DWR is trying to meet. Typically, releases to the Feather River are managed to conserve water while meeting a variety of water delivery requirements, including flow, temperature, fisheries, diversion, and water quality. Lake Oroville stores winter and spring runoff for release to the Feather River as necessary for project purposes. Meeting the water supply objectives of the SWP and the needs of the agricultural diverters in the Feather River Service Area (FRSA) has always been the primary consideration for determining Oroville Facilities operation (within the regulatory constraints specified for flood control, instream fisheries, and downstream uses) and will continue to be so. Power production is scheduled within the boundaries prescribed by the water operations criteria noted above.

Annual operations planning is conducted for multi-year carryover storage. The current methodology is to retain half of the Lake Oroville storage above a specific level for subsequent years. Currently, that level has been established at 1,000,000 acre-feet (af); however, this does not limit drawdown of the reservoir below that level. If hydrology is drier or requirements greater than expected, additional water could be released from Lake Oroville. The operations plan is updated regularly to reflect forecast changes in hydrology and downstream operations. Typically, Lake Oroville is filled to its

maximum operating level of 900 feet above mean sea level (msl) in June and then lowered as necessary to meet downstream requirements, to a minimum level in December or January (approximately 700 feet msl). During drier years, the reservoir may be drawn down more and may not fill to desired levels the following spring. Project operations are directly constrained by downstream operational demands and flood management criteria as described in Relicensing Study SP-E4 *Flood Management Study.*

1.1.2 Temperature Requirements

The Diversion Pool provides the water supply for the Feather River Fish Hatchery. The hatchery temperature objectives are 52°F for September, 51°F for October and November, 55°F for December through March, 51°F for April through May 15, 55°F for the last half of May, 56°F for June 1-15, 60°F for June 16 through August 15, and 58°F for August 16-31. In April through November, a temperature range of plus or minus 4°F is allowed for objectives.

There are several temperature objectives for the Feather River downstream of the Afterbay outlet. During the fall months, after September 15, the temperatures must be suitable for fall-run Chinook salmon. From May through August, the temperatures are managed to be suitable for shad, striped bass, and other warm water fish.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) has also established explicit criteria for steelhead trout and spring-run Chinook salmon, memorialized in a biological opinion on the effects of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and SWP on Central Valley spring-run Chinook and steelhead. As a reasonable and prudent measure, DWR attempts to control water temperature at Feather River mile 61.6 (Robinson's Riffle in the Low Flow Channel) from June 1 through September 30. This measure attempts to maintain water temperatures less than or equal to 65°F on a daily average. The requirement is not intended to preclude pump-back operations at the Oroville Facilities needed to assist the State of California with supplying energy during periods when the California Independent System Operator (ISO) anticipates a Stage 2 or higher Alert.

1.1.3 Water Diversions

Monthly irrigation diversions of up to 190,000 af (July 2002) are made from the Thermalito Complex during the May through August irrigation season. Total annual entitlement of the Butte and Sutter County agricultural users is approximately 1.0 million acre-feet (maf). After meeting these local demands, flows into the lower Feather River (and outside of the Project No. 2100 boundary) continue into the Sacramento River and into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. In the northwestern portion of the Delta, water is pumped into the North Bay Aqueduct. In the south Delta, water is diverted into Clifton Court Forebay where the water is stored until it is pumped into the California Aqueduct.

1.1.4 Water Quality

Flows through the Delta are maintained to meet Bay-Delta water quality standards arising from DWR's water rights permits. These standards are designed to meet several water quality objectives such as salinity, Delta outflow, river flows, and export limits. The purpose of these objectives is to attain the highest reasonable water quality, considering all demands being made on the Bay-Delta waters. In particular, they protect a wide range of fish and wildlife including Chinook salmon, Delta smelt, striped bass, and the habitat of estuarine-dependent species.

1.2 FLOOD MANAGEMENT

The Oroville Facilities are an integral component of the flood management system for the Sacramento Valley. During the wintertime, the Oroville Facilities are operated under flood control requirements specified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Under these requirements, Lake Oroville is operated to maintain up to 750,000 af of storage space to allow for the capture of significant inflows. Flood control releases are based on the release schedule in the flood control diagram or the emergency spillway release diagram prepared by the USACE, whichever requires the greater release. Decisions regarding such releases are made in consultation with the USACE.

The flood control requirements are an example of multiple use of reservoir space. When flood management space is not required to accomplish flood management objectives, the reservoir space can be used for storing water. From October through March, the maximum allowable storage limit (point at which specific flood release would have to be made) varies from about 2.8 to 3.2 maf to ensure adequate space in Lake Oroville to handle flood flows. The actual encroachment demarcation is based on a wetness index, computed from accumulated basin precipitation. This allows higher levels in the reservoir when the prevailing hydrology is dry. When the wetness index is high in the basin (i.e., high potential runoff from the watershed above Lake Oroville), required flood management space is at its greatest to provide the necessary flood protection. From April through June, the maximum allowable water supply storage limit is increased as the flooding potential decreases, which allows capture of the higher spring flows for use later in the year. During September, the maximum allowable storage decreases again to prepare for the next flood season. During flood events, actual storage may encroach into the flood reservation zone to prevent or minimize downstream flooding along the Feather River.

Bidwell Canyon Boat Ramp, Lake Oroville.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF THE RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

This section presents an overview of the RMP. Specifically, it provides a user's guide and discusses the purpose and intent of the RMP, plan vision, methodologies used, monitoring, overview of the implementation programs, issues and assumptions, and defines terms used throughout the RMP.

2.1 USER'S GUIDE

This section is intended to clarify potential conflicts or ambiguity in implementing the RMP during the term of the new license. If the authority or action is unclear or contradictory, the following prioritized list of agreements, plans, or documents will guide decision-makers. The priority is as follows (first to last):

- FERC License Order including terms and conditions, as amended.
- Project management plans, including the final RMP (after FERC approval) and associated detailed sections and appendices.
- Project management plans (including the final RMP) and associated broader goals, objectives, and vision statements.

Potential conflicts or ambiguity in implementing the RMP may be discussed and addressed during recreation coordination meetings (Sections 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, and 7.4) and during periodic RMP review (Section 7.5). Potential revisions to the RMP to clarify potential conflicts or ambiguity may occur when necessary at the discretion of the licensee or at least every 12 years to coincide with FERC Form 80 reporting associated with the Recreation Monitoring Program (Section 7.3).

2.2 PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of the RMP is to guide and facilitate the management of existing and future recreation resources associated with the Oroville Facilities. The RMP provides a vision of the desired future condition for recreation resources in the project area, establishes long-term goals and objectives for managing recreation resources in the project area, and identifies both site-specific and programmatic recreation measures to be implemented over the term of the new license.

Six programs are presented in the RMP that implement these proposed measures. The RMP also details estimated costs for development and operation, provides conceptual site designs, and provides an implementation schedule for recreation actions and enhancements. The cost estimates herein are preliminary and were performed at a general reconnaissance level. While the proposed measures and actions identified in the RMP reflect the Licensee's recreation resource goals in the new license, and the Licensee has committed to implementation of all specific measures (facilities and programs) described, the dollar amounts are preliminary estimates based on available information and not a specific or actual funding-level commitment. However, responsibility for implementing the RMP (including funding) ultimately rests with DWR,

as Licensee. For reference, additional PME implementation and funding commitments by the Licensee can by found in the Settlement Agreement Administrative Provisions and other articles.

Taken as a whole, the RMP represents a single "umbrella" protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PME) measure for recreation resources. The RMP is intended to be specific to DWR's recreation resource roles and responsibilities for the term of the new FERC license. The RMP does not make management or resource commitments for other State or federal entities such as the USFS, other federal agencies, Tribes, or other non-SWP-related stakeholders. However, the continued active involvement of these other recreation participants in the project area is important in helping to meet the overall recreation needs of visitors and residents during the term of the new license. As such, continued coordination with these participants will continue as defined in the RMP.

2.3 PLAN VISION

The RMP provides a long-term vision of how project-related recreation resources should be managed in the project area for the term of the new license. The RMP has benefited from the cooperative nature of the relicensing process, which included input and advice from the Recreation and Socioeconomic Work Group (RSWG) and other stakeholders. The RMP vision is provided below as a series of statements and is consistent with results and recommendations produced by FERC Project No. 2100 Relicensing Studies:

- DWR and other recreation providers in the area have a shared responsibility to help meet the needs of visitors and residents over the term of the new license.
- DWR will be an active recreation provider in the project area through implementation of the RMP.
- DWR recognizes the need to provide additional shoreline recreation opportunities at Lake Oroville and other project facilities.
- DWR will closely coordinate project-related recreation resource needs with other land and resource management agencies and recreation providers in the project area, particularly USFS, BLM, DPR, DFG, California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW), and FRRPD.
- DWR will utilize appropriate coordination efforts aimed at balancing various resource needs to achieve the best outcome possible for the region's resources within the terms and conditions of the new license.
- DWR acknowledges that conditions will change over time and that monitoring is an appropriate and necessary strategy to help manage project-related recreation resources in the future.
- DWR desires to maintain and/or improve the experience now enjoyed by area residents and visitors to the project area by providing and maintaining appropriate developed recreation facilities and dispersed recreation opportunities in suitable locations to address visitor needs.

- DWR will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the other agencies that have a role in recreation implementation in the project area fulfill those responsibilities.

2.4 METHODOLOGIES USED

The methodology used to develop the RMP involved four principal tasks:

1. Conduct recreation-related technical studies and review the results with the RSWG and others;
2. Identify proposed recreation facility and operations and maintenance Resource Actions (RAs) with the RSWG and review these RAs as components of alternatives in the Draft License Application;
3. Select proposed RAs based on the results of Relicensing Study R-17 – *Recreation Needs Analysis*; and
4. Integrate the proposed RAs with other actions necessary to facilitate recreation management and a proposed Settlement Agreement between DWR and potential stakeholder signatories to that Settlement Agreement.

The RMP's six programs define DWR's responsibilities during the term of the new license and are summarized in Section 2.6.

2.5 MONITORING

Over the term of the new license, the RMP will be guided by a monitoring program that will be based on periodic review of recreation attendance and facility utilization, potential resource impacts, and consistency with local and regional plans. No long-term plan can reasonably predict exactly what is needed or foresee all events, particularly for a 30- to 50-year license term. As a result, actions taken will have to be adaptive within certain predictable limits. The Monitoring Program will be an interactive approach to decision-making that incorporates feedback mechanisms to evaluate actions and incorporate new information as it becomes available. Adaptations are necessary as conditions change and more is learned about resource constraints or how the resource is responding to planned activities or solutions. In general, the Monitoring Program has two main attributes: (1) it is a response to uncertainty about the resource being managed over time; and (2) future actions are dependent upon information acquired through monitoring the program or resource.

Not all recreational experiences are alike, and a mix of experiences over a large area such as the project area is desirable. As a result, several different monitoring variables (resource values, key indicators, management standards, management actions, and monitoring activities) will be used in different recreational settings. Specific areas or reaches of the project area have been defined for different recreational settings or uses.

To implement the proposed Monitoring Program, three types of uncertainty are addressed:

1. **Ecological Uncertainty**—dynamic nature of environmental systems, such as changes in viability and distribution of wildlife habitats and wetlands, changes in water quality, and new sensitive species listings;
2. **Social Uncertainty**—changing social values and visitor attitudes and preferences over time; and
3. **Measurement Uncertainty**—uncertainty in the estimation and use of parameters such as user densities, occupancy rates, and theoretical capacities.

The Monitoring Program needs to be both flexible and operate within set parameters. Flexibility is needed to make some necessary changes over time, either in the Monitoring Program itself, or in how data are interpreted. At the same time, there needs to be certainty for the licensee related to costs incurred in implementing the RMP over time as needs change. Some planned projects may accelerate or decelerate over time. However, the total costs incurred by the licensee should not exceed the estimated total costs in Appendix A.

To address uncertainty, the following monitoring and related management strategies will be used:

- The RMP will be reviewed and updated, as necessary, by DWR approximately every 12 years from its implementation (two FERC Form 80[1] cycles – Appendix E) to address changing conditions. Smaller modifications may be incorporated by DWR into on-the-ground actions earlier than every 12 years, as appropriate.

- Implementation plans at new or expanded recreation facilities will be further developed by DWR and DPR based on the results of periodic monitoring and identified recreation needs (see the Recreation Facility Development Program).

- Monitoring will be accomplished by continued collection of recreation use data and biennial interpretation of those data. In-depth recreation surveys, similar to some of those described in Relicensing Study R-13 – *Recreation Surveys* (DWR 2004), may be conducted every 10 to 12 years if needed throughout the term of the new license. Monitoring results will be evaluated against performance standards and indicators on a periodic basis (Section 7.3).

- Periodic interaction with other entities and stakeholders will be used to address potential resource management conflicts and to balance competing

[1] FERC Form 80 – FERC requires that all hydroelectric project licensees prepare and file a FERC Form 80 once every 6 years to document current public recreation use within the project area. This form (Appendix E) describes the current use and capacity of project recreation sites based on a specific methodology and standardized timeframe. This form may be amended over time.

resource goals and values. This will be coordinated through the License Coordination Unit (LCU).

- DWR funding for recreation actions and enhancements may vary by implementation scheduling or scope depending upon changing needs, but should not exceed the overall identified maximum estimated budget over the term of the new license (Appendix A).

2.6 OVERVIEW OF RMP PROGRAMS

The RMP includes six programs that define DWR's roles and responsibilities for recreation resources in the project area over the term of the new license. The six RMP programs include:

- A *Recreation Facility Development Program* that defines DWR's construction-related responsibilities to address existing and future project-related recreation needs, identifies proposed recreation development projects, provides estimated costs and scheduling for these recreation measures, identifies approximate locations and provides conceptual layouts of the development measures, and discusses general facility development standards and design criteria to be used.

- A *Recreation Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Program* that defines DWR's existing and future recreation facility O&M responsibilities. This program addresses existing and future project-related O&M recreation needs, provides estimated costs for annual O&M, and discusses general facility and use area maintenance standards to be used. Other programmatic costs, such as visitor health and safety management, are also defined for RMP implementation. Anticipated agreements are mentioned that will be entered into between DWR and other entities to provide for O&M at Project No. 2100 recreation facilities.

- A *Recreation Monitoring Program* that defines how DWR will conduct recreation resource monitoring and how the monitoring information will be used in decision-making. This program discusses the use of monitoring indicators and standards, defines monitoring needs, identifies periodic monitoring and reporting responsibilities, and identifies a decision-making framework related to when new facility construction would be triggered or initiated. Periodic visitor surveys are also defined.

- A *Resource Integration and Coordination Program* that defines how DWR will integrate recreation resource needs with other resource management needs (such as cultural, wildlife, and aquatic resources) over time. This program, facilitated by the LCU, will coordinate parallel resource management programs and actions, including meetings and workshops.

- A *Plan Review and Revision Program* that defines how the RMP will be updated or revised over the term of the new license. RMP revisions may be based on results from monitoring and coordination meetings with other recreation providers in the project area.

- An *Interpretation and Education (I&E) Program* that defines how hydroelectric energy production, environmental, cultural, and informational interpretation and education will be coordinated and conducted by DWR at project facilities. This program involves several resource areas including recreation, aesthetics/visual, fisheries, water quality, terrestrial, geology, and cultural/historical. The I&E Program will complement and be conducted within the framework of existing DWR and DPR I&E efforts, as described in and contemplated by the LOSRA General Plan, and as described in the proposed Oroville Wildlife Area Management Plan (to be developed). The basis for the I&E Program will be DWR's and DPR's extensive existing resources – specifically, coordination of existing Lake Oroville Visitors Center programs and staff with new and existing programs administered by DWR's Public Affairs Office, DPR's Interpretation and Education Division, and DFG's Office of Natural Resource Education. The overall intent of the I&E Program is to help visitors gain an understanding and appreciation of the area's significant natural, cultural, historical, hydroelectric, water supply, and recreational features through the use of consistent themes and messages at all project recreation facilities. This program will be aimed at project facilities but will be coordinated with other local recreation service and regional marketing providers (e.g., FRRPD, City of Oroville, Butte County, and Oroville Chamber of Commerce).

2.7 ISSUES AND ASSUMPTIONS

Based on technical recreation studies conducted during relicensing, and on RSWG and other stakeholder consultation, several issues and assumptions were identified regarding the management of recreation resources in the project area. These issues and assumptions are important to consider when revising or modifying the RMP over time and include the following:

- The project has resulted in public recreation opportunities and needs along the shorelines of Lake Oroville, the Feather River, Diversion Pool, Thermalito Forebay, and Thermalito Afterbay. These opportunities and needs are located principally within or directly adjacent to the FERC project boundary at the project reservoirs. The operation of the project seasonally affects the availability of some recreation facilities and opportunities.

- DWR and other agencies provide public recreation facilities in the region and share areas of responsibility.

- To satisfy public recreation needs, several recreation providers, including DWR, have developed, operated, and maintained various public recreation facilities, principally within or adjacent to the FERC project boundary.

- New recreation development by DWR and sister agencies will be concentrated on State-owned land in suitable areas where it is compatible with land use plans and natural and cultural resources.

- The need for public recreation facilities and programs is anticipated to increase in the future, and these needs may change over time. New facility needs will occur during the term of the new license and will result in DWR having to construct, operate, and maintain new recreation facilities and programs, as well as renovate and upgrade existing project recreation facilities. Other recreation providers in the project area are also responsible for building, operating, and maintaining new recreational facilities, as well as renovating and upgrading their existing facilities.

- Public recreation providers must comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG), as amended. ADAAG, when fully amended, may mandate the upgrade of some existing recreation facilities when major maintenance is undertaken or when new facilities are constructed. DWR intends to make most upgrades in the first 10 years of the new license.

- Additional recreation facilities will be needed in the future. Some new construction will depend on future monitoring of recreation facility use levels and will rely upon monitoring to justify reaching capacity threshold levels and sustained trends, thereby resulting in the need for management actions and/or new facilities.

- Partnerships and/or cost sharing between DWR and other recreation providers is planned for cooperatively funding some measures in the project area that will benefit the general public and improve the overall recreation experience in the project area.

- The RMP concentrates new recreation development in suitable locations, thereby retaining as much of the natural open space as possible to protect a range of resource values, such as wildlife, aesthetics, and cultural resources.

2.8 EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Key terms used in the RMP and relevant to recreation planning for the project are defined below.

- Project - The DWR Oroville Facilities, FERC Project No. 2100.
- Project Boundary - The FERC project boundary.
- Project-Related Recreation Needs - Existing and future recreation needs that are associated with the development and operation of the project for the new license term.
- Project Area - The project area includes all waters and lands within the FERC project boundary, all recreation resources within the project boundary, and all facilities on those lands and waters. Recreation facilities and areas within the project boundary are listed in Table 1.0-1 and their locations shown in Figure 1.0-2.
- License - The FERC license for the Oroville Facilities, FERC Project No. 2100.
- Term of the New License - The length of the anticipated new license for the project to be ordered by the FERC, ranging from 30 years to up to 50 years.
- Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group (RSWG) - A work group established by DWR during relicensing specifically to help develop issues, study plans, and recommendations for Resource Actions. This work group included representatives from State and federal agencies, the City of Oroville, City of Paradise, Butte County, local residents and landowners, and other resource and recreation stakeholders.
- FERC License Coordination Unit (LCU) - The licensee will recruit and assemble a pool of dedicated staff within the DWR Oroville Field Division office called the License Coordination Unit (LCU) to manage new license requirements. The LCU will be led by a management-level individual who will serve a variety of roles associated with implementing new license requirements. The LCU will coordinate all license projects, act as liaison with community and other governmental and Tribal agencies, disseminate information regarding project status, update the webpage, organize meetings, keep DWR management apprised of issues and problems, and work with the community to minimize conflicts. The LCU will also coordinate responses to FERC with DWR's FERC compliance section at Sacramento Headquarters.

The LCU is intended to give the community a direct point-of-contact for information and input on license issues.

- Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) – A proposed public forum called the RAC is proposed by the licensee to encourage greater involvement by the general public. The proposed RAC, along with: (1) community workshops designed to share information; (2) a web-based bulletin board; and (3) a dispute resolution process, are all designed to encourage and improve local involvement in implementation of the final (FERC-approved) RMP.

Equestrian and Bicycle Trail Users, Lake Oroville Area Trails.

3.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The RMP is intended to satisfy FERC requirements to prepare a recreation plan and to define the responsibilities of parties when public recreation facilities are to be provided. To satisfy this need, the RMP has established goals and objectives for managing recreation resources. These goals and objectives are intended to guide DWR while managing, planning, designing, and constructing recreation resources and facilities in the project area, and in making appropriate resource decisions during the term of the new license. As questions arise regarding decisions about implementing the RMP, particularly future actions, resource managers may compare future actions against these goals and objectives to evaluate consistency with the original intent of the RMP. The goals and objectives are implemented through the specific actions contained herein, and do not constitute independent obligations of DWR under this RMP.

Seven RMP goals, and their respective objectives, are outlined below including:

- Help meet existing recreation resource needs in the project area;
- Help meet future recreation resource needs in the project area;
- Provide adequate public access along project shorelines;
- Preserve recreation resources;
- Coordinate recreation planning and needs;
- Provide cost-effective and diverse recreation opportunities; and
- Provide compatible recreation opportunities.

Goal 1: Help Meet Existing Recreation Resource Needs in the Project Area

Help provide a diverse spectrum of public and private recreational facilities, use areas, and opportunities within the project area that help meet existing project-related recreation needs.

- Objective 1a: Provide for the continued safe operation of existing public recreation facilities and use areas in the project area.

- Objective 1b: Provide public recreation facilities and use areas that respond to visitor facility preferences and needs as identified in visitor surveys conducted during relicensing.

- Objective 1c: Enhance existing public recreation facilities, as needed, by making necessary facility repairs and modifications and/or changes to facility operations and maintenance practices.

- Objective 1d: Comply with federal ADA guidelines (ADAAG, as amended) and provide for the public health and safety needs of all recreation visitors.

- Objective 1e: Manage existing project-related recreation resources in accordance with existing land and resource management plans and policies in the project area.

- Objective 1f: Develop an I&E Program and implement the program's actions at DWR facilities to enhance the visitor experience, inform visitors of facility use options, educate boaters about potential boating hazards, better distribute use amongst facilities, and educate visitors about sensitive resources and appropriate behavior.

- Objective 1g: Implement High priority recreation needs (existing needs) as defined in Appendix A. Initiate action on all High priority projects in the first 10 years after license issuance.

Goal 2: Help Meet Future Recreation Resource Needs in the Project Area

Help provide a diverse spectrum of public recreational facilities, use areas, and opportunities within the project area that help meet future project-related recreation needs.

- Objective 2a: In the future, monitor changes in demand for lake- and reservoir-related recreation and help provide for public recreation needs consistent with resource values and monitoring indicators and standards. Changes may include the emergence of new recreation technologies, continuing trends toward larger recreational vehicles (RVs), greater mixed use, shorter day use hiking opportunities, increasing demand for water-based recreation opportunities, increased desire for educational/interpretive recreation opportunities, or others.

- Objective 2b: In the future, provide additional new public recreation facilities or use areas as justified by periodic monitoring of recreation facility and use area visitation, condition, sustained demand over time, and monitoring indicators and standards over time.

- Objective 2c: In the future, continue to implement the Recreation Monitoring Program using monitoring indicators and standards, monitor recreation use levels at periodic times, and update the visitor needs and preference survey periodically.

- Objective 2d: In the future, provide adequate funding to implement identified future project related recreation-related development projects and programs.

- Objective 2e: In the future, periodically review and update the recreation actions and enhancements within the project area (subsequently, the RMP will be reviewed approximately every 12 years, or two FERC Form 80 cycles).

- Objective 2f: In the future, periodically monitor dispersed shoreline recreational use in the project area and address related site impacts as necessary.

- Objective 2g: In the future, utilize I&E Program components to help distribute use amongst recreation facilities, if needed, and to educate the public about resource values, appropriate behavior, and potential boating hazards.

- Objective 2h: In the future, consider implementation of Moderate and Low priority recreation needs (future needs) as defined in Appendix A. When appropriate, initiate these actions after all High priority actions have been completed.

Goal 3: Provide Adequate Public Access Along Project Shorelines

Provide adequate public access to, and use of, project water bodies and shorelines in the project area.

- Objective 3a: Provide adequate public access to the project's lake and river shorelines, and safe public recreation opportunities on project lands and waters as identified in the RMP (including campgrounds, viewpoints, shoreline trails, boat launches, swimming areas, and day use areas).

- Objective 3b: Through the I&E Program, provide adequate informational signs and programs to alert boaters, swimmers, anglers, and other users about operational or natural hazards in and around project facilities.

- Objective 3c: Support increased non-motorized trail opportunities, both multiple-use and/or single use where appropriate, in the project area by coordinating access opportunities across and adjacent to project lands.

- Objective 3d: Improve universal accessibility in the project area by adhering to federal ADA guidelines (ADAAG, as amended) at all existing and future project recreation facilities.

- Objective 3e: Through the I&E Program, communicate to the public the range of recreation facilities and use areas that are available in the project area.

- Objective 3f: Coordinate with local law enforcement agencies in the project area.

Goal 4: Preserve Recreation Resources

Avoid, minimize, or mitigate existing and future project-related impacts to recreation resources in the project area and help preserve the resource base.

- Objective 4a: Allow for recreation use of the project reservoirs by providing facilities that accommodate a range of reservoir pool levels.

- Objective 4b: Through the Recreation Monitoring Program, conduct periodic monitoring of recreation use at project water bodies to assess potential impacts to recreation, natural, and cultural resources over time and take appropriate corrective measures as needed.

- Objective 4c: Through the I&E Program, provide environmental and other education opportunities in the project area to foster a better understanding and stewardship of natural and man-made resources.

- Objective 4d: Allow for public access to appropriate project lands to help meet the long-term recreation goals and objectives in the project area and to maintain the existing recreational experience over time.

- Objective 4e: Focus future recreation development in suitable areas that do not significantly affect the existing recreation experience or sensitive resources at project facilities. Natural and cultural resource constraints will be considered in determining suitability in the adaptive management strategy.

- Objective 4f: In the I&E Program, help protect and interpret significant natural features and enhance the public's recreational experience in the project area (e.g., through interpretation, kiosks, signs, Watchable Wildlife programs, etc.).

- Objective 4g: Respect property rights and surrounding natural environments while addressing the need for additional recreation facilities and increased recreation use in the project area over time.

Goal 5: Coordinate Recreation Planning and Needs

Coordinate future DWR recreation planning efforts in the project area with federal, State, and local land and resource management agencies, public recreation providers, and private recreation stakeholders prior to making new recreation development decisions.

- Objective 5a: In the Recreation Monitoring Program, monitor recreation resources and visitation using monitoring indicators and standards, and

identify appropriate management actions and associated costs needed to address identified problems.

- Objective 5b: Provide adequate DWR staffing and resources to address recreation resource planning and permitting in the project area over the term of the new license.

- Objective 5c: Participate in other comprehensive planning efforts that may be undertaken by local agencies in the area to coordinate implementation of the RMP over the term of the new license.

- Objective 5d: Periodically consult with natural and cultural resource specialists to ensure that recreational planning, use, and facilities do not limit or unnecessarily infringe on the environmental characteristics necessary to sustain traditional cultural practices.

- Objective 5e: Review the RMP approximately every 12 years and update the RMP programs, as appropriate, to address changing conditions over time. Smaller revisions may be undertaken on a more frequent basis.

Goal 6: Provide Cost-Effective and Diverse Recreation Opportunities

Provide cost-effective recreation facilities and programs in the project area to maximize on-the-ground recreation improvements using available dollars, minimize operational and maintenance costs where possible while meeting standards, and provide for compatible and desirable facilities that help meet the needs of visitors.

- Objective 6a: Promote public recreation facilities and programs that are cost-effective, and work with others on larger public projects that benefit visitors to the project area and area residents.

- Objective 6b: Provide public facilities that minimize, to the extent feasible, long-term O&M costs.

- Objective 6c: Provide cost-effective public recreation facilities that generally accommodate existing visitor facility preferences, but also allow for future modification if preferences change over time.

- Objective 6d: Provide a range of public recreation opportunities, associated with project waters and shorelines that include developed fee sites and undeveloped or dispersed non-fee sites to allow for a diversity of visitor choice and experience.

- Objective 6e: Allow for appropriate public recreation-related opportunities and facilities in the project area, while managing the project area to exclude inappropriate or incompatible recreation activities in specific areas or at specific times.

Goal 7: Provide Compatible Recreation Opportunities

Provide public recreation resources that are compatible with adopted land and resource plans and policies and sensitive resources in the project area.

- Objective 7a: Provide safe public recreation facilities and programs that are compatible with adopted land and resource plans and policies, as well as other project-related resource needs, goals, and objectives including water quality, cultural, terrestrial, aesthetic/visual, and aquatic resources.

- Objective 7b: Through the I&E Program at licensee facilities, provide environmental education opportunities (e.g., through viewpoints, interpretive signs or kiosks, environmental education programs, and nature trails) that demonstrate compatibility with and stewardship of natural and cultural resources in the project area.

- Objective 7c: Provide public recreation facilities that are compatible with project operations in the new FERC license.

- Objective 7d: Provide public recreation facilities and programs that are compatible with and supplement existing tourism and local residents' recreation needs in the project area.

4.0 RECREATION MANAGEMENT, PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Lands, facilities, and recreational interests of the Project No. 2100 study area are publicly owned and/or managed by a number of State, federal, and local agencies, most notably DWR, DPR, DFG, USFS, BLM, and FRRPD. The properties and management responsibilities of these agencies are detailed in a series of deeds, agreements, and transfers among the agencies involved. Relevant agency ownership, management responsibilities, and current management practices throughout the Project No. 2100 area are described below. Under FERC regulations, DWR is ultimately responsible for public access, recreation opportunities, and associated development within the Project boundary. Figures 4.0-1, 4.0-2, and 4.0-3 illustrate the land-based jurisdictions of each of the managing agencies.

4.1 DAVIS-DOLWIG ACT AND OTHER SWP RECREATION MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES AND AGREEMENTS

In 1961, the California Legislature passed the Davis-Dolwig Act (California Water Code Sections 11900–11925), which identified four State agencies (DWR, DPR, DFG, and DBW) as responsible for providing recreational opportunities and fish and wildlife enhancements as part of the SWP. Under Davis-Dolwig, DWR is charged with planning for public recreation and fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement in connection with the development of SWP facilities. This duty involves acquiring land and locating and constructing all works and project features so as to allow for fish and wildlife enhancement and recreational uses following construction of the project. DPR and DFG are charged with designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining public recreation facilities and managing fish and wildlife resources, respectively. DBW, in turn, is charged with planning, designing, and constructing boating-related facilities.

Because DWR has acknowledged ultimate responsibility for public recreation mandated by FERC regulations and the current Project No. 2100 Recreation Plan, DWR has assumed more direct involvement in implementation and operation and maintenance of new recreation facilities since 1994. Variabilities in State budget appropriations have resulted in the creation of interim agreements that provide for public recreation funding and service benefits, as directed by FERC Order. These funding and service benefits have been provided directly by DWR or by services delivered by several contracting entities.

4.2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Oroville Facilities—including Oroville Dam, Lake Oroville, Hyatt Pumping-Generating Plant, Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant, Thermalito Diversion Dam, Thermalito Diversion Dam Power Plant, Thermalito Forebay, Thermalito Afterbay, Fish Barrier Dam, and Thermalito Power Canal—are owned by the State of California and are operated by DWR. In addition, DWR funds many of the recreational and fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement facilities associated with the Oroville Facilities,

including the Feather River Fish Hatchery, which are operated by other agencies. The Oroville Facilities, designed and constructed by DWR in the 1960s, are a critical part of the SWP and provide significant water collection and storage, flood management, and power production capabilities. The SWP was authorized in 1960 under the Burns-Porter Act. In accordance with the California Water Code (Section 346), properties for recreation purposes were acquired by DWR at the same time that land was acquired for the Oroville Facilities. By necessity as well as by statute, DWR works closely with other agencies, including DPR, DFG, and DBW, to both fund and implement the programs and improvements required by FERC. Furthermore, some lands within the Project No. 2100 Boundary remain federal lands, subject to USFS and BLM planning and management, though most of the day-to-day management responsibilities have been delegated to the State by written agreement or other arrangement under the existing FERC license.

4.2.1 Department of Water Resources

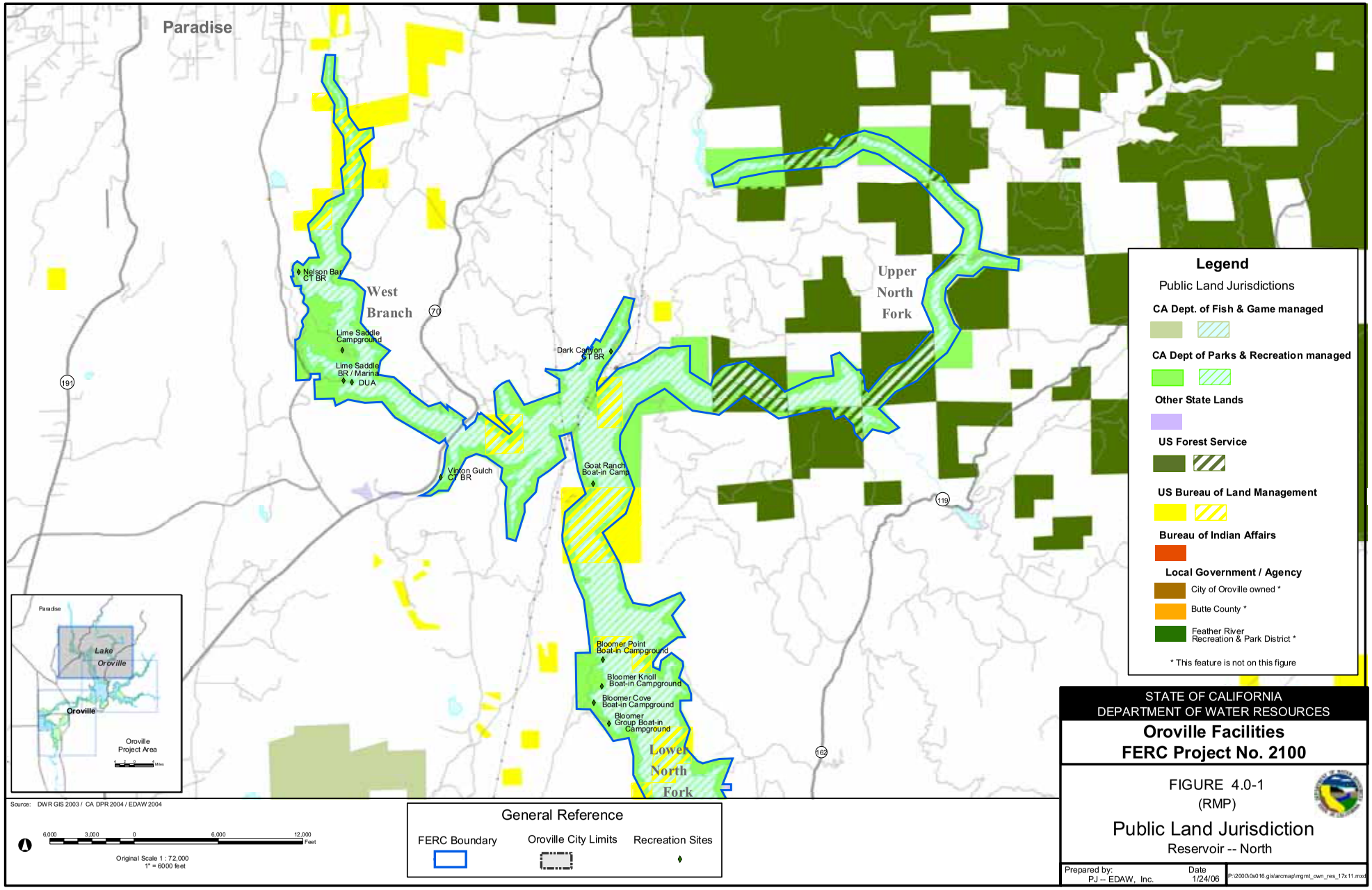
It is ultimately DWR's responsibility to ensure that all Project No. 2100 required improvements, maintenance, and studies mandated by FERC are properly carried out. Although DWR does not manage most of the recreational facilities in the study area, it is responsible for coordinating and implementing a variety of recreation-related projects and improvements. DWR has various statutory, administrative, and contractual responsibilities with various State agencies. However, FERC Orders articulating DWR's responsibility to carry out improvement projects, fishery studies and fish stocking programs, hatchery operations, and other recreation-related tasks have been added as amendments to the existing FERC License to operate the Oroville Facilities.

4.2.2 Department of Parks and Recreation

The official mission of DPR is "to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the State's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation" (DPR 2003). In addition, DPR's Northern Buttes District (which manages LOSRA) aims "to perpetuate, enhance, and make available to all people the natural and cultural resources and recreational opportunities within the District" through the "delivery of outstanding park and recreational services, maintaining at all times a customer-oriented approach which emphasizes quality, integrity, courtesy, and efficiency." DPR's Core Programs, linked directly to the agency's mission, include Resource Protection, Education and Interpretation, Facilities, Public Safety, and Recreation (DPR 2001).

Ongoing DPR management duties within LOSRA include:

- Park equipment and facilities maintenance;
- Systems maintenance;
- Safety and enforcement, on both land and water;
- Project management;


Paradise
West Branch
Upper North Fork
Lower North Fork
Nelson Bar CT BR
Lime Saddle Campground
Lime Saddle BR / Marina
DUA
Dark Canyon CT BR
Vinton Gulch CT BR
Goat Ranch Boat-in Camp
Bloomer Point Boat-in Campground
Bloomer Knoll Boat-in Campground
Bloomer Cove Boat-in Campground
Bloomer Group Boat-in Campground
70
191
119
162
Legend
Public Land Jurisdictions
CA Dept. of Fish & Game managed
CA Dept of Parks & Recreation managed
Other State Lands
US Forest Service
US Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Local Government / Agency
City of Oroville owned *
Butte County *
Feather River Recreation & Park District *
* This feature is not on this figure
Paradise
Lake Oroville
Oroville
Oroville Project Area
Source: DWR GIS 2003 / CA DPR 2004 / EDAW 2004
6,000 3,000 0 6,000 12,000 Feet
Original Scale 1 : 72,000
1" = 6000 feet
General Reference
FERC Boundary
Oroville City Limits
Recreation Sites
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Oroville Facilities
FERC Project No. 2100
FIGURE 4.0-1
(RMP)
Public Land Jurisdiction
Reservoir -- North
Prepared by:
PJ -- EDAW, Inc.
Date
1/24/06
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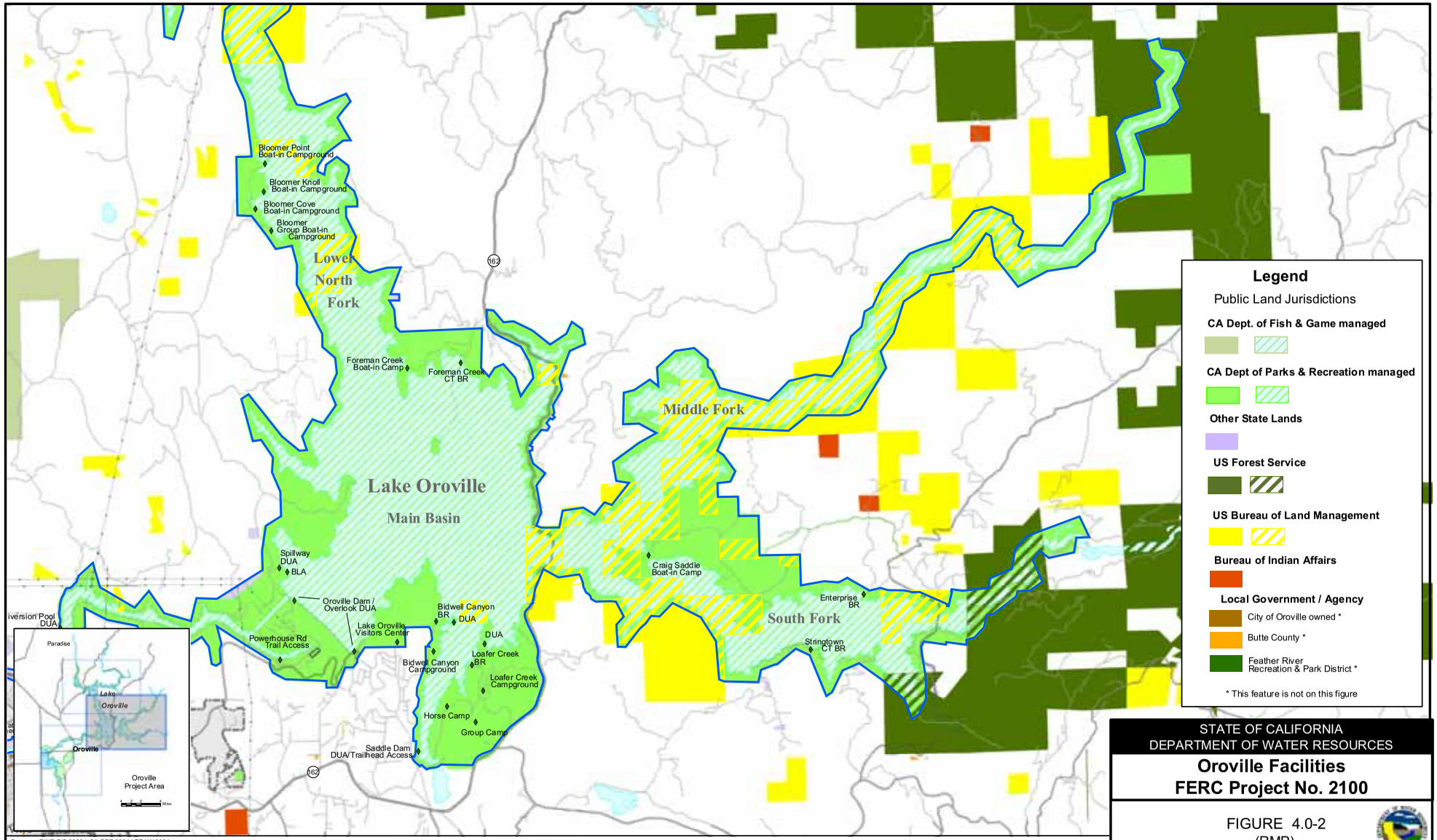

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Oroville Facilities
FERC Project No. 2100

FIGURE 4.0-2
(RMP)

Public Land Jurisdiction
Reservoir -- South

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Date 1/24/06
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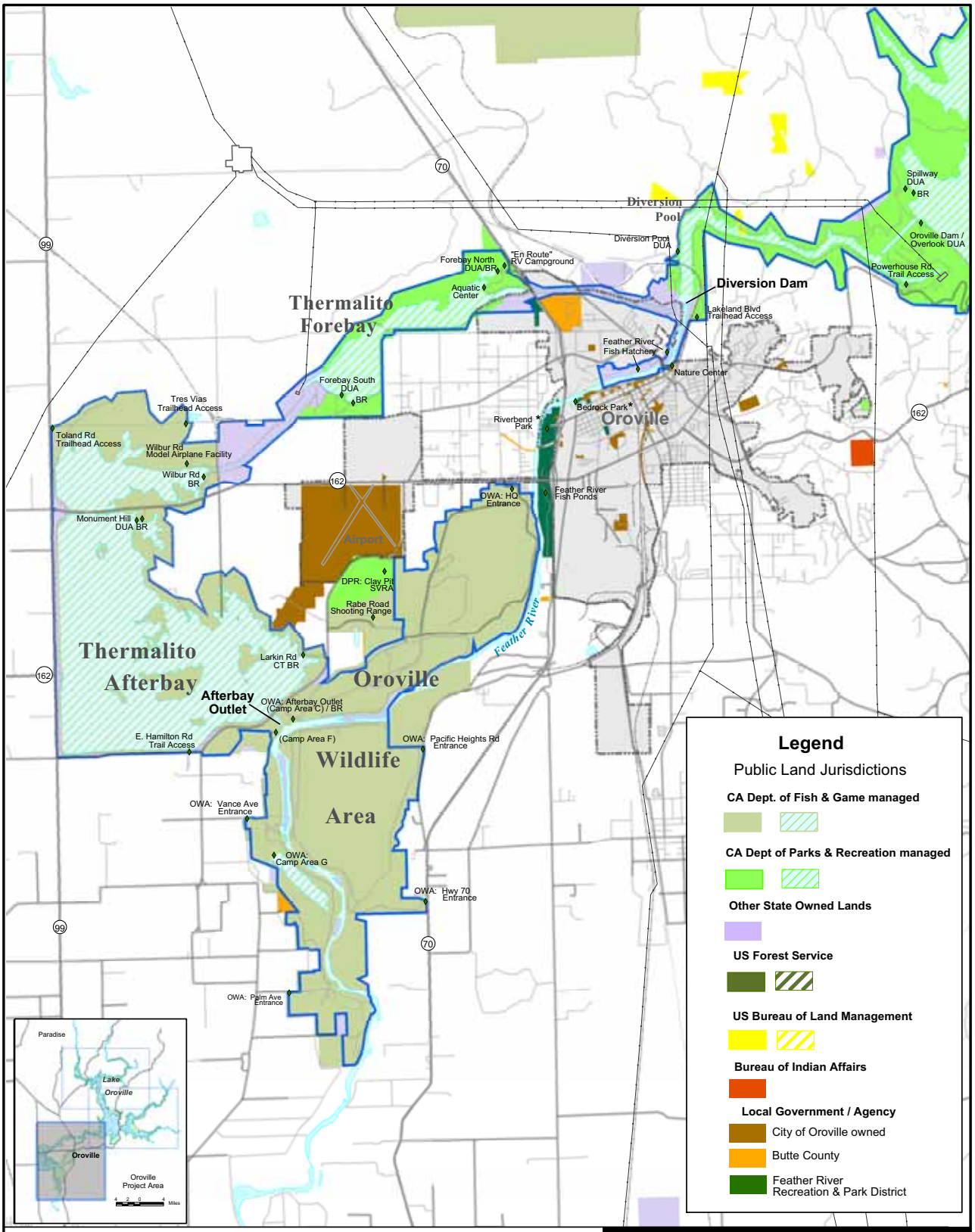

Source: CA Spatial Information Library / DWR GIS 2003 / DPR 2004 / EDAW 2004

6,000 3,000 0 6,000 12,000 Feet

Original Scale 1 : 72,000
1" = 6000 feet

General Reference

FERC Boundary

Oroville City Limits

Feather River Low Flow Channel
Extending fom Diversion Dam to Afterbay Outlet

Recreation Sites

* Sites are outside Project boundary, and not a State operated facility.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Oroville Facilities
FERC Project No. 2100

FIGURE 4.0-3
(RMP)

Public Land Jurisdiction
River -- Below Oroville Dam

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Date 1/24/06
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- Volunteer management;
- Concession management;
- Resource management;
- Park administration;
- Interpretive activities; and
- Strategic planning.

Routine tasks performed by DPR staff include collecting fees and monitoring attendance; cleaning and maintaining restrooms and toilet buildings and servicing trash receptacles; maintaining camping and day use areas, including boat ramps, courtesy docks, and 47 miles of trails; monitoring and maintaining buoys and vessels; and maintaining recreation area grounds and landscaping. Although fish and wildlife management generally falls under DFG authority, DPR Rangers (sworn State peace officers) have the authority to enforce hunting and fishing regulations and the Fish and Game Code in the LOSRA; a number of Rangers are assigned specifically to LOSRA. DPR Resource Ecologists and related staff also plan and implement natural and cultural resource protection and enhancement projects within LOSRA.

DPR is also responsible for carrying out boat safety inspections and providing safety patrols at Lake Oroville, Diversion Pool, and Thermalito Forebay. Other tasks include road maintenance for approximately 21 miles of road, maintenance of all park utilities (including electrical, water, and wastewater facilities), and capital improvement of all recreational facilities. In addition to DPR, two private concessionaires operate and maintain facilities at the Bidwell Canyon and Lime Saddle Marinas, subject to DPR contracts and oversight.

Utility services in LOSRA are overseen by a water/sewer plant supervisor. In addition to LOSRA staff, DPR's other Northern Buttes District administrative staff provide direct aid to a dozen other State Park System units in the District. DPR annually hires additional seasonal support staff in the summer to operate entrance stations and carry out basic facility maintenance tasks.

Consistent with the Statewide strategies and management practices outlined in *The Seventh Generation: The Strategic Vision of California State Parks* (DPR 2001), DPR's related management strategies and practices in the LOSRA include:

- Public involvement: meeting with interest groups and the general public;
- Interagency involvement: meeting and conferring with other agencies;
- Hiring qualified staff;
- Contracting professional services;
- Seeking alternative funding sources, including grants and reimbursements;
- Using data collection to identify and resolve relevant issues; and
- Following Total Quality Management practices.

Within LOSRA, DPR manages interpretive programs, activities at the Lake Oroville Visitors Center, special events coordination, and general recreational opportunities consistent with the stated management strategies. The California Public Resources Code (PRC Section 5019.56) authorizes DPR to undertake improvements to provide for a number of recreational activities, including camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, and water sports.

4.2.3 Department of Fish and Game

DFG's mission is "to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public." The California Fish and Game Code empowers DFG to carry out all Code provisions via a number of management and regulatory avenues, including regulation of hunting and fishing, development of ecological reserves and management areas, review and permitting of proposed projects, and public education and habitat improvement programs. DFG is responsible for managing all fish and wildlife resources in the State. Fishing and hunting are important recreational activities associated with Project No. 2100, especially in the LOSRA and OWA and along the Feather River. In addition to fish and wildlife management, DFG regulates hunting and fishing throughout the project area, including within the LOSRA.

Front-line enforcement of fishing and hunting regulations, and the California Fish and Game Code in general, is conducted by DFG Wardens (sworn State peace officers). Wardens are typically assigned to a county, or a group of counties, and the Butte County assigned Wardens include the OWA and other project lands and waters within their routine patrols. In addition to routine patrols, Wardens often coordinate with or are supplemented by colleagues from adjacent counties and other jurisdictions in order to address particular or chronic violations on an as-needed basis.

DFG is the managing agency for the OWA (Figure 4.0-3), which was formally established in 1968. DWR acquired this area in the public interest in part for fish and wildlife enhancement and recreational use in 1962. By 1968, a total of 5,500 acres were transferred from DWR to DFG for creation of the OWA. Additional acreage was added to the OWA by DWR for inclusion in the OWA through a series of transfer agreements between 1973 and 1986, primarily in the vicinity of and including Thermalito Afterbay.

Management authority for the Thermalito Afterbay water surface and adjoining State shore land "as may be necessary for access and use during waterfowl hunting season" was transferred to DFG through an agreement with DWR (DWR and DFG 1973). That agreement required DFG to provide and maintain bathroom facilities and parking areas, install and maintain safety warning signs where necessary, and clean up the Thermalito Afterbay area following hunting season.

A subsequent agreement between DWR and DFG, dated January 24, 1986, transferred "an easement for such management of the Thermalito Afterbay water surface and adjoining lands to use as a wildlife area and associated recreation," and states that the "operation and maintenance of the subject property as a wildlife habitat area shall be the sole responsibility of [DFG], and [DWR] shall not be liable for any costs arising from such operation and maintenance." The OWA currently encompasses 11,870 acres, including Thermalito Afterbay and shoreline lands.

DFG also manages the Feather River Fish Hatchery both for fish stocking and salmon fishery mitigation and as an interpretive facility open to the public. The hatchery is operated by DFG, with substantial funding and maintenance provided by DWR. In addition, DFG studies and manages the warm- and coldwater fisheries in Lake Oroville and assists with DWR's habitat improvement and fish stocking programs.

DFG also maintains authority over all hunting and fishing activities and regulations at LOSRA, and over all activities with the potential to affect wildlife or wildlife habitat. For example, DFG has permitting authority over certain projects throughout the project area, including issuing authority for Fish and Game Code Section 1600 agreements, which apply to projects that would affect the flow, bed, channel, or bank or any river, stream, or lake.

4.2.4 Department of Boating and Waterways

The mission of DBW is to improve access to California waters for the recreational boating public, and to make sure that boating is as safe as possible. It is estimated that DBW serves an estimated 3 million California boaters (DBW 2002). DBW's management goals are the same throughout the State and are not site specific, as DBW neither owns nor manages any recreational facilities or activities within the Project No. 2100 boundary.

DBW administers a number of programs, including boating and aquatic safety education and training programs, boat and yacht licensing programs, and programs that fund the development of public-access boating facility projects. DBW funds and constructs various projects at Project No. 2100 related to boating and boating-related facilities, including boat-in facilities, boat ramps and associated parking areas, floating restrooms, other restrooms at boat ramps, and general renovation of boating facilities. Projects pursued by DBW are typically proposed following suggestions from other agencies and from the public through DBW's public outreach programs. Following construction, the responsibility for operation and maintenance of facilities is turned over to the appropriate land and water managing agency—at Project No. 2100, this has historically been DPR and/or DWR.

4.2.5 California Highway Patrol

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) provides uniform traffic law enforcement throughout California. Assuring the safe, convenient, and efficient transportation of

people and goods on the State's highway system is still the agency's primary purpose, but in 1995 the CHP was merged with the California State Police. In assuming those related duties, it statutorily became the primary agency responsible for security and law enforcement at all State facilities and lands (except lands of the State Park System). Per the explicit exception for State Park lands, CHP is not responsible for law enforcement in the LOSRA. CHP is, however, responsible for patrol and law enforcement on OWA lands and at all Project No. 2100 facilities and on DWR lands not otherwise part of the LOSRA.

4.2.6 U.S. Forest Service

The USFS manages approximately 2,039 acres of land located in the North, Middle, and South Fork arms of Lake Oroville inside the FERC project boundary (Figures 4.0-1 and 4.0-2). Many of the parcels are within the reservoir's inundation zone, but many also include shoreline and upland areas of the LOSRA. Almost all of these lands are within the Plumas National Forest and the remainder, located in the North Fork arm of Lake Oroville, are within the Lassen National Forest.

Local USFS lands are managed under the 1988 Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) (USFS 1988). In addition, management of these lands is influenced by the more recent Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (Plan Amendment) (USFS 2004). The Forest Plan establishes the management goals and policies that direct the management of the Forest over 10 to 15 years (the “planning period”) and helps meet long-term objectives over a 50-year period (the “planning horizon”). The Forest Plan also prescribes management practices for specified areas and time periods needed to obtain these objectives. The policies for the lands in the areas near the project primarily emphasize resource conservation, provision of high quality recreational opportunities, and protection of visual resources.

The USFS and DPR have an agreement concerning management of National Forest lands located within the Project No. 2100 boundary. The agreement, dated March 16, 1978, allows DPR to conduct and administer certain activities on those National Forest System lands. The USFS retains all other authorities. In the agreement, the USFS transferred an interest in National Forest System lands within the Project No. 2100 boundary shown in Exhibit K of the FERC license to permit DPR to use, and “protect said lands in a manner necessary to administer them for recreation purposes and, to the extent permissible, to enforce all applicable laws and regulations thereon." The USFS is not interested in changing or terminating the agreement at this time, but will reevaluate the agreement during the next Forest Plan revision (pers. comm., Taylor 2003). It is the licensee's preference and intent that National Forest System lands within the Project No. 2100 boundary continue to be managed as part of LOSRA.

4.2.7 U.S. Bureau of Land Management

In general, BLM-managed lands in the project area contain semi-primitive roads with views of Lake Oroville. Several disjunct parcels within the project total about 3,852

acres (Figures 4.0-1, 4.0-2, and 4.0-3). While BLM is currently implementing a coordinated resource plan with DWR to manage the Lake Oroville watershed, surplus public lands within the study area receive very little active management by BLM (BLM 1993). Recreation use of these lands is managed by DPR as part of the LOSRA (pers. comm., Williams 2003). No formal arrangements between BLM and State agencies exist regarding management of the project area, except the FERC License. The lands within the FERC Project boundary, primarily within the LOSRA, have been withdrawn from entry under a variety of public land laws due to a designated reservation for the project (pers. comm., Berg 2003).

At an operational level, BLM has prioritized the following management objectives for lands in and near the project area (pers. comm., Berg 2003): (1) identify what lands are of specific interest to the State of California within the FERC boundary; (2) design the mechanism(s) to effectuate transfer of surplus federal lands to the State of California; and (3) complete such transfer.

BLM has communicated its interest to surplus properties with public jurisdictions. DPR, DWR, and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA, on behalf of four federally recognized tribes) have submitted applications to BLM for land transfer sites within the project area. However, the timing of future progress on these issues is unknown. Nevertheless, it is the licensee's intent that BLM-managed lands within the Project No. 2100 boundary continue to be managed as part of LOSRA, and that transfer of ownership to the State of California (under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act) occur when feasible.

4.2.8 Feather River Recreation and Park District

The FRRPD, established by Butte County in 1952 to provide recreation and park services to the residents of the City of Oroville and surrounding communities, is a special assessment district encompassing 700 square miles of southeastern Butte County (City of Oroville 1995; FRRPD 2002). The FRRPD owns or leases 10 parks, three community buildings, two public pools, and several sports fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, and assorted park amenities, several of which are near or adjacent to the study area (City of Oroville 1995; FRRPD 2003). In addition to parks and recreation facilities, the FRRPD offers a variety of programs, including youth and adult sports leagues, summer day camps, and classes for youth, adults, and seniors. Classes range from sailing lessons, swimming lessons, and lifeguard training, including first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), hunter safety, and a variety of dance classes (FRRPD 2003).

Although most FRRPD facilities are outside of the Project No. 2100 boundary (portions of the existing and planned expansion of Nelson Park are within the project boundary), FRRPD coordinates with DWR, DFG, and DBW to enhance the recreational opportunities available in and around the vicinity of the project (pers. comm., Lawrence 2003). Coordination with State agencies includes the FRRPD's leasing and management of several areas owned by DWR and DFG. The licensee proposes to

continue and potentially expand the relationship with FRRPD as it relates to the aforementioned leased and managed lands, pursuant to existing agreements and any subsequent or revised agreements that may arise in both agencies' mutual interests.

4.2.9 State Water Contractors

The State Water Contractors (SWC) is a non-profit organization made up of 27 of the 29 urban and agricultural water suppliers in Northern California, San Francisco Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast, and Southern California who receive water from the SWP and deliver it to approximately two-thirds of the State's population (DWR 2004). SWC formed in 1982 and, while primarily concerned with SWP operations and the FERC relicensing project, it also facilitates discussions among its members regarding the energy industry, fisheries, and topics related to the Bay-Delta. The organization represents the 27 agencies' interests and follows legislative and DWR decisions affecting water and costs of delivery.

Specific SWC objectives include the following:

- Timely completion of SWP facilities under construction;
- Proper and efficient operation of the SWP;
- Protection of water rights needed by the SWP;
- Review of litigation affecting the SWP;
- Presentation of the views of SWC members to legislative and administrative agencies, to the public generally, and to other interested groups; and
- Development and maintenance of a public information program about the SWP (SWC 2004).

The 27 water contractors fund all water supply-related costs of the SWP for an annual allocation of approximately 3,000,000 af. These costs amounted to $866 million in 2003 (pers. comm., Coburn 2004). This represents about 94 percent of the annual costs for operation and maintenance of SWP facilities (the remaining costs are funded by the federal government for joint operation of the San Luis Facilities [3 percent], and by the California State General Fund for recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement [3 percent]). Contractors also repay about 89 percent of SWP capital expenditures, generally funded by bonds; repayment of the remaining 11 percent comes from the federal government for flood control (2 percent), the State General Fund for some recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement per the Davis–Dolwig Act (5 percent), and the rest from miscellaneous sources (DWR 2004).

Full payments are made each year for fixed SWP costs regardless of the variations in water deliveries that occur from year to year. Fixed costs include those for operation, maintenance, and debt service. Contractors also pay costs that vary depending on the amount of water delivered during the year, such as the costs for energy used to pump water to their respective aqueducts (DWR 2004). The current long-term water supply

contracts between the 29 SWP contractors and DWR are scheduled to terminate in 2035; however, they are expected to be renewed prior to expiration.

4.2.10 Concessionaires and Contractors

DPR and concessionaires have entered in to agreements to provide specific services in the project area as noted below.

Concessionaires

DPR contracts with concessionaires to provide additional services that support recreation in the LOSRA. Current DPR concessionaires located at LOSRA include the following but are subject to change:

- Bidwell Canyon Marina – Funtime, Fulltime, Inc., located at the south end of Lake Oroville in Bidwell Canyon offers a full-service marina including boat and houseboat rentals, mooring docks, slip and buoy rentals, shuttle service, dry boat storage, boat repair service, gasoline, sewer pump-out, snack bar/restaurant, bar serving liquor, boating supplies, sundries, and souvenirs.

- Lime Saddle Marina – Forever Resorts LLC, located at the north end of Lake Oroville at Lime Saddle, offers marina services including boat and houseboat rentals, mooring docks, slip and buoy rentals, shuttle service, dry boat storage, boat repair service, gasoline, sewer pump-out, boating supplies, sundries, and souvenirs.

- Advanced Diving Services, Inc. – Provides service anywhere within LOSRA and is contracted through 2009. Advanced Diving Services, Inc. provides hull cleaning, salvage services, deep water diving, and object or body recovery.

Contractors

Both DWR and DPR contract with various vendors and other business and governmental interests and authorities to provide some services. Important recreation-related contractors currently include (but are subject to change) DPR's Reservation System, a campground and tour reservation system that has been in place since 1970. The current vendor is ReserveAmerica, contractor to DPR for State Park System reservations Statewide. Reservations using this system can be made over the phone or through DPR's website and can be made 7 months in advance.

4.3 FERC LICENSE COORDINATION UNIT

DWR intends to have appropriate staff in Oroville to manage the terms and conditions of the new license. This unit, called the FERC License Coordination Unit (LCU), will serve three functions:

1. Manage the recreational, environmental, and other terms and conditions of the license;
2. Ensure compliance with the regulatory framework defined by FERC and other regulatory agencies; and
3. Provide a local point of contact for the community.

To ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the new license, the LCU will manage the projects and programs required by the license. LCU staff will coordinate and manage construction and maintenance activities; coordinate and manage the functions and recommendations established by the RAC and Ecological Committee (EC); and manage studies and monitoring programs.

To ensure regulatory compliance, the LCU will prepare correspondence to FERC and other agencies as required by the regulatory framework. Studies, reports, surveys, and permits will be prepared and managed locally by the LCU.

As the local point of contact for the community, the LCU will provide a single point of contact for interested parties to request information and/or to provide recommendations. The LCU will have the capacity to make decisions concerning the implementation of the terms of the license, and will provide a local resource for dispute resolution if needed.

To encourage and facilitate more local awareness and involvement in implementation of the terms and conditions of the new license and specifically the RMP, the LCU will be responsible for several key public-oriented elements, including:

1. Community workshops designed to share information;
2. Web-based bulletin board; and
3. Dispute resolution process.

All of these elements are aimed at improving community involvement in implementing this RMP and are described below in more detail.

4.3.1 Community Workshops

Initially, DWR will hold and facilitate Community Workshops twice per year in the City of Oroville/Oroville area. These meetings will be used to inform the community on progress of projects associated with license requirements, reservoir conditions, operations, and other issues related to implementation of the RMP. Interested citizens and members of the public will be encouraged to discuss recreation-related items and issues during these meetings. Community Workshops may also include information from the Ecological Committee that is also proposed as part of the new license.

4.3.2 Web-Based Bulletin Board

The licensee will maintain a web-based Bulletin Board, updated monthly or as needed with project status reports, milestones, community events, license events, Community

Workshop notes, and RAC summaries (Section 4.4), covering all resource areas of the new license.

4.3.3 Dispute Resolution Process

Disputes associated with the new FERC license will be brought to the attention of the LCU. The LCU will investigate and evaluate disputes and recommend a course of action to resolve each dispute. The licensee will be the final arbitrator of license proposals and compliance disputes and, as such, will accept or deny proposed projects or expenditures as appropriate. Stakeholders retain the option of taking unresolved disputes through the Administrative and Dispute Resolution Process provided in the Settlement Agreement or ultimately to FERC.

4.4 RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DWR has proposed that a Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) be created to advise the licensee on implementation of the RMP components, review recreational use data for Project No. 2100 facilities, and recommend modifications to the RMP over time throughout the term of the new license. Specific elements of the RAC are listed below.

Participation/Communication:

- Meetings to be held in Oroville.
- Meeting announcements/agendas will be posted on DWR's website and noticed in the local paper.
- Meeting summaries will be posted on the web and available at the Butte County Library or other suitable location. Meeting summaries are also intended to capture concerns of the participants.
- Each member bears its own costs for attendance.
- Meetings will be open to the public, and the public will be appropriately allowed to address the RAC with recreation-related questions and potential solutions to issues.

Membership:

- One representative will be requested from each of the following local entities: City of Oroville, City of Paradise, Butte County, FRRPD, and Oroville Chamber of Commerce.
- Two at-large public representatives, with one each being chosen by the RAC from lists of candidates supplied by the City of Oroville and Butte County. These appointees will serve a two-year term.
- One representative each from DPR, DFG, DBW, DWR, and SWC.
- One non-governmental agency (NGO) representative from American Rivers.
- One Native American representative, collectively selected by agreement amongst the Tribes in the project vicinity.

- All members must be Settlement Agreement signatories.

Governance:

- The LCU will arrange, administer, and permanently chair the meeting.
- DWR will provide a facilitator during meetings if the RAC determines that there is a need.
- RAC advice and recommendations to DWR's LCU will be through majority plus one vote. Quorum is two-thirds or 10 members.
- DWR will provide the RAC an annual report on attendance and other monitoring of Project No. 2100 recreational facilities.
- Project No. 2100 recreational usage monitoring data and reports, along with a record of all recommendations made by the RAC, will be provided to FERC every two years.
- As licensee and pursuant to FERC guidelines, DWR retains the decision-making role and responsibility in Project No. 2100 operations and maintenance.

Meeting Frequency:

- The RAC will meet at least three times per year during the first two years of the new license and a minimum of two times per year thereafter.
- The RAC can recommend and request additional meetings in writing as necessary to address license conditions and pursuant to the RAC's role in making recommendations to DWR.
- Joint meetings of the RAC and EC can be scheduled if needed and recommended by both committees, either in lieu of meetings stipulated above or as a separate meeting.

Scope of Committee:

- RAC determinations regarding recreation license compliance items will be recommendations to the LCU.
- Use Project No. 2100 RMP and other recreation license requirements as a guidance document while recognizing some aspects of the RMP will involve adaptive management.
- Advise licensee on compliance and implementation of the RMP and other recreation license requirements, including priorities, schedules, public workshops, and operational issues associated with recreation.
- Recreational facilities within the Project No. 2100 boundary; relevant information on Supplemental Benefit Fund (SBF) projects can be agendized particularly if non-project use of Project No. 2100 lands is being sought through the SBF.

- Review and assess usage survey/monitoring results of existing Project No. 2100 recreational facilities and/or recreation studies and provide recommendations to the LCU for inclusion in licensee's reports to FERC.
- Make recommendations on goals and/or objectives regarding recreational resources to the LCU.
- Assist in addressing comments/issues raised in the Community Workshops through recommendations to the LCU.
- RAC will periodically review its operations, and modify them if needed.

4.5 INTERAGENCY/DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION AND PLANNING

Because of the differences in the specific missions and responsibilities of various State agencies, communication among staff of each of the managing agencies is essential to ensure that recreation opportunities in the study area are adequately and efficiently provided to the public. Interagency coordination is important for recreation management issues that may arise around the timing of events and as they relate to facility conditions and reservoir levels. Clear divisions of responsibility are important for efficiency of O&M and to enable recreation managers to be prepared to manage unforeseen events.

The general responsibilities assigned to the respective State of California Departments of the Resources Agency, as they relate to SWP facilities, are articulated in the Davis-Dolwig Act (California Water Code Sections 11900-11925). The cooperative relationship between these Departments is further described in Resources Agency Order No. 6. Local (project) staff from DWR, DPR, DFG, DBW, and CHP meet regularly to address project and non-project interagency management via a staff forum currently termed Oroville Recreation Coordinating Agencies (ORCA). The ORCA forum, or its equivalent, will continue to meet periodically as needed during each year, and throughout the license term, to facilitate short- and intermediate-term interagency and inter-Departmental operations coordination and planning.

Lake Oroville Floating Campsite.

Bidwell Canyon Marina, Lake Oroville.

5.0 MANAGEMENT UNITS

For purposes of long-term recreation planning and monitoring, six geographic management units have been defined for the project area. These separate units represent distinct geographic areas, as well as distinct recreation experiences for visitors within the project area. These management units have been primarily designated for use in the Recreation Monitoring Program and are generally consistent with similar geographic divisions used during Project No. 2100 relicensing recreation studies. Data collected and analyzed within each of these separate units, as well as data compiled and analyzed for the entire project area, will help guide future RMP decision-making on a unit-by-unit basis. These six management units are presented in Figure 5.0-1 and are further listed and described below.

- Lake Oroville (land area);
- Lake Oroville (reservoir surface water area with six subdivisions);
- Diversion Pool (includes Feather River Fish Hatchery);
- Thermalito Forebay;
- Thermalito Afterbay; and
- Oroville Wildlife Area.

5.1 LAKE OROVILLE

The main management unit in the project area is Lake Oroville and includes both a land component and a reservoir surface water area component.

5.1.1 Lake Oroville—Land

The Lake Oroville land management unit includes all of the large developed public RV and tent campgrounds including Bidwell Canyon, Loafer Creek, and Lime Saddle Campgrounds, as well as a number of small semi-primitive boat-in campsites (BICs), moored floating campsites, and "en route" campsites within parking areas. Camping data will be collected on a per-site or facility basis, as well as aggregated for all like or similar facility camping experiences within this management unit.

There are also a number of larger day use/picnic facilities within this management unit including Spillway, Bidwell Canyon, Loafer Creek, Lime Saddle, and Oroville Dam Overlook. Additionally, there are a number of larger developed boat ramps and/or marinas, smaller car-top boat ramps, and dispersed reservoir shoreline access sites within this management unit. Day use recreation data will again be collected on a per-site or facility basis, as well as aggregated for all like or similar facilities in this management unit.

5.1.2 Lake Oroville—Water

The Lake Oroville water management unit includes six reservoir surface (water area) subunits:

- Main Basin
- West Branch
- Upper North Fork
- Lower North Fork
- Middle Fork
- South Fork

Boat launching data will be collected and analyzed for each of the land-based sites described above on an access point basis (Figure 5.0-1), as well as compiled for the overall Lake Oroville reservoir area.

5.2 DIVERSION POOL

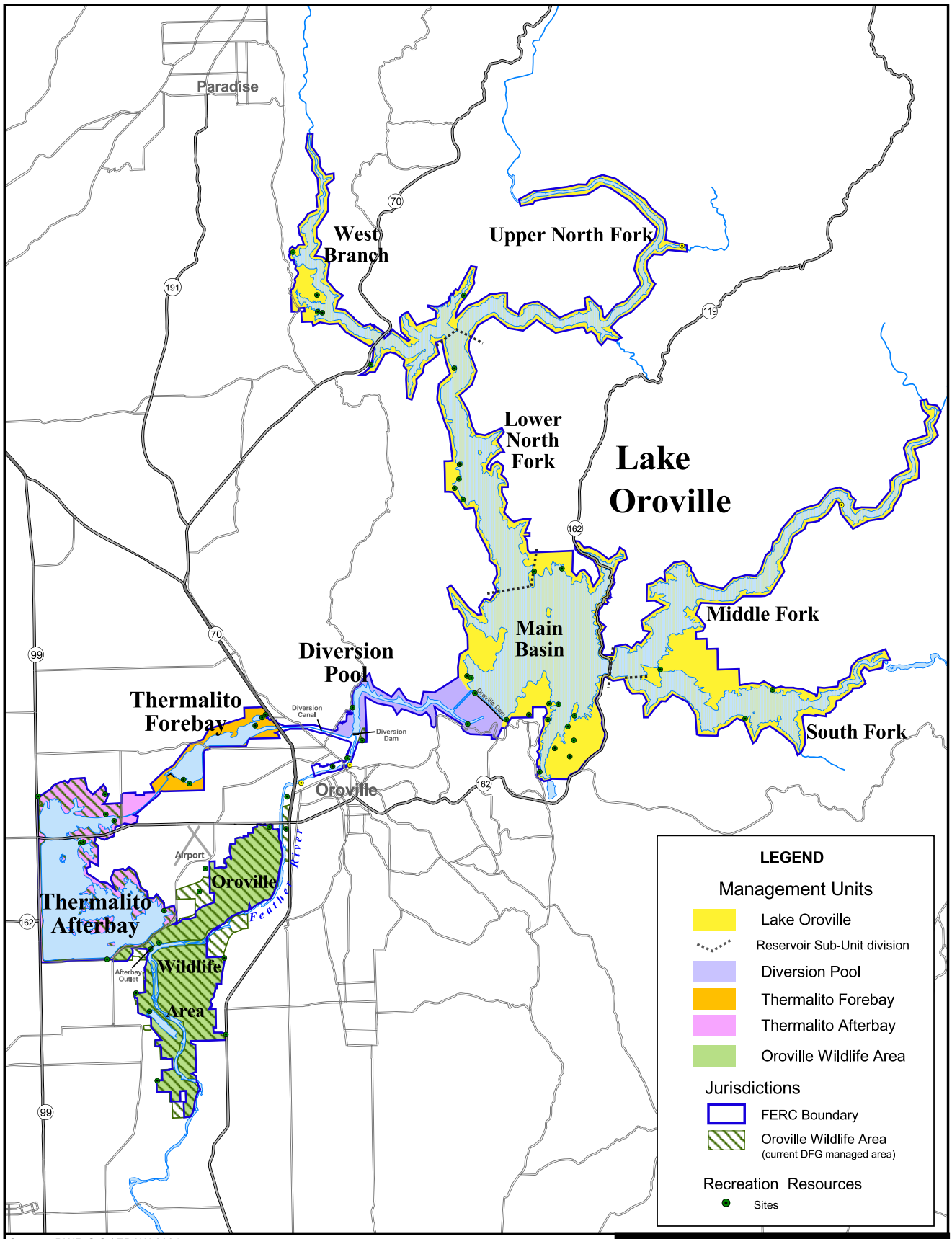
The Diversion Pool management unit is unique among the project reservoirs in that it provides a semi-primitive recreation experience. Access is limited primarily to trail and non-motorized watercraft (electric motors are allowed). No camping is allowed in this management unit, only day use. Day use recreation data will be collected on a per-site basis (two new shoreline day use sites will be developed under the RMP) and on-water basis, as well as aggregated for the entire management unit. The Feather River Fish Hatchery site is included in this management unit, although it is actually located within the Low Flow Channel of the Feather River.

5.3 THERMALITO FOREBAY

The Thermalito Forebay management unit (North and South) provides another unique recreation experience compared to the other geographic areas of the project. Its relatively stable pool level, near-town location, and developed day use facilities provide an experience that is much different compared to Lake Oroville. Access is good by existing roads, trails, and by motorized (South Forebay only) and non-motorized watercraft. No camping is allowed in this management unit, except “en route” RV camping in the North Forebay Day Use Area (DUA). Day use recreation data will be collected on a per-site basis, as well as aggregated for the entire management unit; en route camping use will also be monitored.

5.4 THERMALITO AFTERBAY

The Thermalito Afterbay management unit (most portions are within the OWA) is similar to the Thermalito Forebay management unit, but also has notable differences including more extensive motorized watercraft use and greater focus on preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat areas. It also has a relatively predictable pool level (on a daily basis, the Afterbay typically fluctuates between one and two feet, with changes more frequently in the one-foot range; on a weekly basis, the Afterbay is generally at its lowest elevation on Monday and storage is increased over the week to reach a maximum elevation on Saturday), near-town location, and has a few developed day use facilities. There are also several undeveloped dispersed boat-in day use sites and a water-ski course. Access is good by existing roads, trails, and watercraft.



Source: DWR GIS / EDAW 2004

1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles

Original Scale 1 : 142,560
1" = 2.25 miles

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Oroville Facilities
FERC Project No. 2100

Figure 5.0-1
(RMP)

Project Area Management Units

Prepared by: PJ -- EDAW, Inc.
Date 11/22/04
P:\2000\0s016.gis\arcview\rec_acc.apr

Day use recreation data will be collected on a per-site basis, as well as aggregated for the entire management unit. When a proposed new campground is developed, camping use data will also be collected.

5.5 OROVILLE WILDLIFE AREA

The Oroville Wildlife Area (OWA) management unit includes that area of the OWA currently managed by DFG (portions of the OWA are outside of the project boundary), but excludes the Thermalito Afterbay OWA component (Figure 5.0-1). The OWA management unit is primarily a primitive wildlife area and provides visitors to the project area with a non-reservoir outdoor experience. Pursuant to the OWA status as a state designated wildlife area, recreational components must be carefully considered and planned for specific areas or locations that minimize potential adverse impacts to wildlife habitat in general, and special status species specifically. The OWA allows for different outdoor recreation activities compared to the other management units, such as hunting, river-oriented fishing and boating, and wildlife observation and photography. Shoreline fishing at or near the Afterbay outlet, within the OWA, is one of the most popular fishing sites in the State. Public access within the OWA is provided by both developed and primitive roads, some of which also serve as trails, and by boat along several miles of the Feather River. Primitive camping is allowed in a limited, designated area of this management unit. In the future, developed camping is proposed within a 40-acre site of this management unit. Day use and overnight camping data will be collected at defined sites or use areas on a per-site/area basis, as well as aggregated for the entire management unit.

Lime Saddle Boat Ramp, Lake Oroville.

6.0 PROJECT RECREATION FACILITIES

This section presents existing and proposed recreation facility improvements and enhancements by type of site: campgrounds, BICs, DUAs, BRs, and trails and trailheads. Figure 1.0-2 identifies the locations of these recreational facilities and sites. Tables presented in this chapter summarize existing facility features at each site. Appendix A includes additional detail regarding proposed recreation measures, schedules, and estimated costs at each recreation facility within the FERC project boundary (Appendix B provides details for recreation facilities outside the FERC project boundary). Phasing is described in Appendix A in 10-year increments (L1 to L5) with the first 10 years of the new license period being referred to as L1, the second 10-year phase referred to as L2, etc. Detailed figures illustrating existing site layouts and preliminary conceptual locations or notations of proposed facility expansions, additions, or enhancements are presented in Appendix C. Existing and proposed trails, including trail use designations, are discussed in Appendix D.

6.1 CAMPGROUNDS

Project recreation facilities described in this section (and listed in Table 6.1-1) include:

- Bidwell Canyon Campground;
- Loafer Creek Campground;
- Loafer Creek Group Campground;
- Loafer Creek Equestrian Campground;
- Lime Saddle Campground;
- Lime Saddle Group Campground;
- Spillway RV “En Route” Campground;
- North Thermalito Forebay RV “En Route” Campground; and
- OWA Thermalito Afterbay Outlet Camping Area.

6.1.1 Bidwell Canyon Campground

Existing Resources: Bidwell Canyon is located along the southern shore of Lake Oroville, west of Oroville Dam. It is a fishing area as well as a base for many boaters. This facility has 75 campsites for either tents or RVs, all with full hookups. There is a seasonally staffed booth at the entrance to greet visitors and collect fees. Two flush restrooms, piped water, six showers, shade trees, and fire rings with grills are available (Table 6.1-1). Bidwell Canyon Campground is one of the major attractions within the project area.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will construct a new replacement campground loop adjacent to the remaining “Gold Flat” loop (to mitigate for the loss of campground space due to expansion of Bidwell Marina parking facilities, Section 6.4.1). This action requires clearing, grading, and paving, as well as the installation of new campground improvements. An existing trail would need to be relocated in the campground expansion area (trail relocation is subject to future detailed design

Table 6.1-1. Campground and dispersed camping facilities.

Recreation Site	Overnight Use			Health & Safety									Other			
	Campsites with Table, Fire Ring, & Grill	Tent Pads	RV sites	Portable Toilets	Vault Toilets	Flush Toilets	Showers	Potable Water Available	Gray Water Sump	RV Dump Station	Trash Receptacles	Telephone	Shade Trees	Entrance Booth/Kiosk[1]	Amphitheater	Parking
Bidwell Canyon Campground	75	—	75[2]	—	—	2	6	Yes	—	—	3		Yes	1	—	4[3]
Lime Saddle Campground	44	—	16	—	—	6	4	Yes	—	1	6	2 (1 ADA)	Yes	1	—	9 (1 ADA)[3]
Lime Saddle Group Campground	6 (3 ADA)	—	—	—	—	3 (all ADA)	2 (all ADA)	Yes	—	—	2	—	Yes	1	—	16 (2 ADA)[3]
Loafer Creek Campground	137 (6 ADA)	137[4]	—	—	—	20 (12 ADA)	16	Yes	12	—	21	1	Yes	1	1	16[3]
Loafer Creek Group Campground	6	30	—	—	—	8 (4 ADA)	8 (all ADA	Yes	—	—	5	—	Yes	1	—	48
Loafer Creek Equestrian Campground[5]	15	—	—	—	—	2 (1 ADA)	2 (1 ADA)	Yes	—	—	11	—	Yes	1	—	15
OWA Dispersed Camping: Area C	None	—	—	—	2 (all ADA)	—	—	—	—	—	Unknown	—	Yes	—	—	Undefined
Area F	None	—	—	—	1 (ADA)	—	—	—	—	—	Unknown	—	Yes	—	—	Undefined
North Forebay RV "En Route" Campground[6]	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Spillway RV "En Route" Campground[6]	—	—	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

[1] All entrance booths/kiosks are shared with other recreation facilities at that location (DUAs, BRs, other campgrounds).
[2] Campsites are generally used by RVs, but tent campers are allowed. Full hookups are available.
[3] Number of parking spaces in addition to the spaces provided at campground.
[4] Campsites are generally used by tent campers, but RVs are allowed. No hookups are available.
[5] Other facilities specifically for horses are not listed in the table.
[6] "En Route" campgrounds consist of parking spaces with no hookups. North Forebay has six picnic tables surrounding the parking sites. See Sections 6.1.8 and 6.1.9 for more information on facilities at these sites.
Note: The dash indicates that there is no facility or that the category does not apply.
Source: EDAW 2003

analysis). Additional future capacity, when and if needed based on monitoring, would be accommodated at the nearby Loafer Creek Campground because of limited developable area at the Bidwell Canyon Campground area. DWR will coordinate with DPR to ensure that the existing Bidwell Canyon Campground activity center facility is operational and available for public use.

6.1.2 Loafer Creek Campground

Existing Resources: Loafer Creek Campground includes 137 campsites (six ADA accessible) for tents and RVs (Table 6.1-1). There is a staffed entrance booth for visitor information and fee collection. Campsites have tables, fire rings with grills, tent pads, shade trees, and nearby drinking water. There are 20 flush toilets (12 ADA accessible), 16 showers with hot water, 12 gray water sumps, and a telephone.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: If 38 campsites being relocated at the Bidwell Canyon Complex cannot be sited at that location during the initial phase (L1), then DWR will immediately fund the construction of up to 15 new RV campsites at the Loafer Creek Complex in compensation for potential lost campground capacity in the Bidwell Canyon Campground area. If these approximately 15 new individual campsites are constructed as a result of campsite relocations and potential lost campground capacity at Bidwell Canyon Campground, then up to approximately 35 additional new campsites (RV and/or tent) may be constructed in the future at Loafer Creek Campground.

Over the term of the new license in phases L2 to L5, based on monitoring results and a demonstrated need, the licensee may potentially construct up to a total of approximately 50 new individual RV and tent campsites in the future. This proposed action would be implemented only if results and threshold criteria have been met (Section 7.3). These additional facilities would be constructed adjacent to existing facilities and, for the most part, would be serviced by existing campground infrastructure (Table 6.1-1; Appendices C and A). In addition, the existing RV and tent campsite mix would be re-evaluated and campsite designs modified to meet current demand, if needed.

When triggers for new campground construction are reached in the future at the Loafer Creek Complex, additional campground capacity will be added in increments of 25 campsites, or to build-out if the capacity of the total remaining area for new campsite development is closer to 25 campsites than to 50 campsites. If and when campsite capacity for both the Bidwell Canyon and Loafer Creek Complex is reached, because of limited developable area, other Lake Oroville recreation facility locations will be evaluated for their campground-development potential to meet future need.

6.1.3 Loafer Creek Group Campground

Existing Resources: This area is adjacent to the Loafer Creek Campground and shares the staffed entrance booth for contacting visitors and collecting fees. There are six separate group sites, each able to accommodate 25 people, that share restrooms and showers (Table 6.1-1). There are eight flush toilets (four ADA accessible) and eight

showers (also ADA accessible). Each unit has several tables, a sink with running water, a large barbecue (BBQ), a large campfire ring, shade trees, five large tent pads, nearby water spigots, and parking spaces for eight vehicles.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will enhance ADA accessibility at the existing group campground.

The licensee will also construct two new separate group RV/tent campsites, each able to accommodate at least 25 people, that will share a new combination shower/restroom building. These additional group campsites will be constructed in the general vicinity of the existing group campsites (Figure 1.0-2) though they are likely to be constructed as part of a new campground loop. In any case, they will, for the most part, be serviced by existing area infrastructure (Appendix C). The existing group campground, as well as the new group campsites, will meet current standards for ADA accessibility.

In the future in phases L2 to L5, if needs warrant based on monitoring results, an additional two new group campsites, each able to accommodate at least 25 people, will be constructed adjacent to those described above or near the DUA. The two future sites, possibly near the existing day use area, will share a future combination shower/restroom building and, for the most part, will be serviced by existing area infrastructure (Figure 1.0-2, Appendix C). The monitoring and threshold criteria for determining and establishing future need are described in Section 7.3.

6.1.4 Loafer Creek Equestrian Campground

Existing Resources: This area is located adjacent to the campground and group camp, sharing the staffed entrance booth for contacting visitors and fee collection. The equestrian camp has 15 sites, each with horse trailer parking, a fire ring with cooking grill, and a table (Table 6.1-1). Additionally, each campsite has a corral to feed and secure horses. There are two flush toilets (one is ADA accessible) and two showers (one is ADA accessible). There is a horse washing area that can accommodate two horses at a time. In 2002, there were several upgrades to the site including an equestrian exercise ring (50-foot round pen), corrals with feeder boxes, and the entrance road was paved. The Roy Rogers Trail can be accessed directly from the site (Figure 1.0-2).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will provide ADA-related enhancements at the Loafer Creek Equestrian Campground based on a future detailed design analysis.

6.1.5 Lime Saddle Campground

Existing Resources: Lime Saddle Campground is located on the western shoreline of the West Branch of the North Fork arm of Lake Oroville and is accessed from State Route (SR) 70 and Pentz Road. This is the newest of the project campgrounds, opened in July 2001. There is a staffed visitor information and fee-collection kiosk. Adjacent to

the entrance kiosk are telephones (one is ADA accessible) and nine single-vehicle parking spaces (one is ADA accessible). Between the entrance kiosk and the individual campsites is an RV dump station with two stalls. The campground has 50 total campsites: 44 individual campsites (28 individual car/tent sites and 16 that are available for RVs with full hookups) and group sites (Section 6.1.6). Each individual campsite has a table and a fire ring with grill. There are two restroom/shower buildings located among the 44 campsites. Within the two buildings there are six flush toilets and four showers (Table 6.1-1). There are numerous water spigots, gray water sumps, and dumpsters throughout the campground.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: In the initial implementation phase of the final (FERC-approved) RMP, the licensee will fund the construction of 10 new RV campsites at or adjacent to the Lime Saddle Campground to expand its immediate capacity.

In the future in phases L2 to L5, based on monitoring results and a demonstrated need, the licensee may potentially construct up to approximately 25 to 40 additional new RV and tent campsites (up to 50 total new campsites in the future) as needed based on monitoring results and threshold criteria being met (Section 7.3). These additional facilities will be constructed adjacent to existing facilities and, for the most part, will be serviced by existing campground infrastructure (Figure 1.0-2, Appendix C).

If new campground capacity has been reached at both Bidwell Canyon and Loafer Creek Campgrounds, additional campground capacity will then be added at Lime Saddle Campground (for a total of approximately 50 new individual RV and/or tent campsites). If all three of these Lake Oroville campgrounds reach their collective capacity in the future, then additional campground capacity (beyond 50 new sites) may be considered at a new undeveloped campground site (to be determined).

6.1.6 Lime Saddle Group Campground

Existing Resources: The group campground is located separate from the 44 individual campsites described above. Essentially, the group campground is composed of six individual sites in two groups, designed with a central parking and restroom/shower area with an island in its center with a picnic table. The parking area has 16 single-vehicle parking sites (two are ADA accessible) with two trash dumpsters (Table 6.1-1). The central restroom/shower building has three ADA accessible flush toilets and two ADA accessible showers. The group campground is split into two areas, Pinecone and Acorn. Each has a shade structure with three tables underneath along with a trash receptacle, large BBQ, and a water fountain/spigot. Among the Pinecone and Acorn sites, there are six campsites (three are ADA accessible). Two of the ADA accessible campsites are in the Pinecone area and are accessed with a multi-level ADA accessible ramp system that allows a tent camper to be a bit further away from the main area (shade structure). In contrast, the ADA accessible campsite in the Acorn area is directly adjacent to the main area (shade structure).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will construct one six-unit group (50-person) RV campsite during the L1 phase. Based on monitoring results and a demonstrated need (Section 7.3) during the L2 to L5 phases, the licensee may construct one additional new group campsite in the future. These additional group campsites would be constructed adjacent to the existing tent/RV campground and, for the most part, would be serviced by existing campground infrastructure (Figure 1.0-2, Appendix C).

6.1.7 Spillway RV "En Route" Campground

Existing Resources: This campground consists of 40 parking spaces that have been reserved for RV "en route" (self-contained) camping (Table 6.1-1). These spaces are located in the upper parking lot at Spillway. There are no hookups for these spaces. Other facilities, including restrooms, located at Spillway are described in Section 6.4.4, Spillway BR/DUA.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility. Based on low current and future projected use estimates, the number of designated sites could be modified. Appropriate use of this area will be periodically reassessed and will be subject to periodic security reviews. As long as the practice of en route camping in this area remains consistent with normal security practices, and there remains no significant cost to continuing this recreation opportunity as it has become established, no immediate changes are proposed at this facility.

6.1.8 North Thermalito Forebay RV "En Route" Campground

Existing Resources: The North Forebay area covers roughly half (300 surface acres) of the Thermalito Forebay's 630 surface acres and hosts non-motorized boating and other recreational activities (DWR 2000). There are 15 "en route" (self-contained) RV parking spaces with no hookups (Table 6.1-1) adjacent to the popular day use area. Other facilities, including restrooms, at the North Forebay are described in Section 6.4.5, North Thermalito Forebay BR/DUA.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility. Based on low current and future projected use estimates, the number of designated sites could be modified; alternatively, this facility could be upgraded to a traditional campground if future campground capacity expansion is not possible elsewhere. However, as long as capacity expansion (when warranted by monitoring and achievement of use thresholds, as described in Section 7.3) is anticipated in other project areas, and there remains no significant cost to continuing this recreation opportunity as it has become established, no immediate changes are proposed at this facility.

6.1.9 OWA Thermalito Afterbay Outlet Camping Area

Existing Resources: Located southwest of Lake Oroville, the OWA contains a series of ponds and levees adjacent to the Feather River. Fishing, hunting, nature study, and river-associated recreation are the primary activities at the Wildlife Area. This area is managed by DFG under a series of agreements with DWR. The Thermalito Afterbay outlet is one of the most popular river fishing areas in the project area and the State, particularly during salmon runs.

There are an undetermined number of primitive campsites (places to park an RV or stake a tent) at an area just north of and adjacent to the Afterbay outlet (Figure 1.0-2) that is also used for day use. At Area C, on the north side of the outlet, there is an unimproved one-lane boat ramp, two ADA accessible vault toilet buildings, and several trash receptacles (Table 6.1-1). At Area F (day use only), on the south side of the outlet, there is an ADA accessible vault toilet building and several trash receptacles (Table 6.1-1). The OWA Thermalito Afterbay Outlet Camping Area also provides shoreline and fishing access to the Feather River. A former OWA primitive camping area (Area G) was closed March 1, 2004, to help combat unlawful dumping in the area and to help eliminate non-recreational camping.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will construct new developed (but primitive, no hook-up) tent and RV campsites within a 40-acre area of the OWA adjacent to the northern parking and day use area. This new camping area would be within an existing disturbed area north of the Thermalito Afterbay outlet channel (Appendix C). Based on site constraints, a minimum of 20 campsites and up to a maximum of 40 campsites will be developed initially. Additional campsites may be considered in the future if monitoring results demonstrate a clear need and if the 40-acre area can accommodate the increase. Campsites will include picnic tables and gravel campsite spurs (open fires, including pole stoves/grills, are expressly prohibited by DFG in this area; however, gas-style camp stoves are allowed). Existing access roads will be re-graveled and signed with vehicle access barriers. Native arid landscaping will be planted or seeded to help restore disturbed areas and to increase opportunities for shade for use by visitors. Additional vault toilet buildings will be added to existing ones if and when use levels and the total number of future campsites warrant. Roadside directional signs will be provided for easier locating of the new facilities. All site enhancements and improvements will be sited to minimize potential impacts to special status species and their habitat.

6.2 BOAT-IN CAMPGROUNDS AND FLOATING CAMPSITES

Boat-in campgrounds (BICs) are most usable when Lake Oroville storage is at higher pool levels (850 feet msl and above). At lower pool levels, the campsites are inconveniently far from the water; as there are no established pathways to the BICs, their use requires walking up steep slopes if water levels are low. The boat-in camps do not generally receive many visitors when the reservoir is below 850 feet msl. Visitor

access will be restricted within the inundation zone to specific BICs, as appropriate, during periods of low reservoir levels to minimize impacts to cultural resources.

Recreation facilities described this section (Table 6.2-1) include:

- Bloomer Cove BIC
- Bloomer Knoll BIC
- Bloomer Point BIC
- Bloomer Group BIC
- Craig Saddle BIC
- Foreman Creek BIC
- Goat Ranch BIC
- Floating Campsites

Table 6.2-1. Boat-in and floating campsite facilities.

Recreation Site	Overnight Use	Health & Safety						Other		
	Campsites with Table, Fire Ring, & Grill	Pit Toilets	Vault Toilet Bldgs.	Chemical Toilets	Potable Water Available	Gray Water Sump	Trash Receptacles	Shade Trees	Self-registration Pay Station	BBQ Grills
Bloomer Cove BIC	5	2	—	—	—	—	6	Yes	—	—
Bloomer Knoll BIC	6	2	—	—	—	—	4	Yes	—	—
Bloomer Point BIC	25	2	2	—	—	—	14	Yes	1	—
Bloomer Group BIC	1	2	—	—	—	—	9	Yes	—	Unknown number
Craig Saddle BIC	18	2	2	—	Yes		19	Yes	1	—
Foreman Creek BIC	26	2	2	—	Yes	1	16	Yes	1	—
Goat Ranch BIC	5	2	2	—	—	—	5	Yes	—	—
Floating Campsites	10[1]	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	1 each

[1] *Floating campsites have a table and grill, but no fire ring. They also have a sink, but no potable water.*
Note: The dash indicates that there is no facility or that the category does not apply.
Source: DWR 2003

6.2.1 Bloomer Cove BIC

Existing Resources: Bloomer Cove is located on the North Fork arm of Lake Oroville (Figure 1.0-2). There are five individual campsites in this area with tables and fire rings with cooking grills (Table 6.2-1). The site has shade trees, two pit toilets, and about six trash receptacles.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility.

6.2.2 Bloomer Knoll BIC

Existing Resources: This campground is adjacent to Bloomer Cove on the North Fork arm of Lake Oroville (Figure 1.0-2). There are six individual campsites in this area with tables and fire rings with cooking grills (Table 6.2-1). The site has shade trees, two pit toilets, and about four trash receptacles.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility.

6.2.3 Bloomer Point BIC

Existing Resources: This campground is adjacent to Bloomer Cove on the North Fork arm of Lake Oroville (Figure 1.0-2). There are 25 individual campsites in this area with tables and fire rings with cooking grills (Table 6.2-1). The site has shade trees, two vault toilets and two pit toilets, about 14 trash receptacles, and a self-registration pay station.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility.

6.2.4 Bloomer Group BIC

Existing Resources: This campground is adjacent to Bloomer Cove on the North Fork arm of Lake Oroville (Figure 1.0-2). There is one group campsite with a 75-person capacity. There are also several shared group BBQ cooking grills (Table 6.2-1). The site has shade trees, two pit toilets, and about nine trash receptacles.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility.

6.2.5 Craig Saddle BIC

Existing Resources: This campground is located between the Middle Fork and South Fork arms of Lake Oroville (Figure 1.0-2). There are 18 individual campsites in this area with tables and fire rings with cooking grills (Table 6.2-1). The site has shade trees, two vault toilets and two pit toilets, about 19 trash receptacles, potable water, and a self-registration pay station.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility.

6.2.6 Foreman Creek BIC

Existing Resources: This campground is located at the north side of Lake Oroville, west of the Foreman Creek Car-top BR (Figure 1.0-2). There are 26 individual campsites in this area with tables and fire rings with cooking grills (Table 6.2-1). The site has shade

trees, two vault toilets and two pit toilets, 16 trash receptacles, potable water, a gray water sump, and a self-registration pay station.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility. However, due to modifications proposed for the Foreman Creek Car-top BR, and rerouted access to surrounding day use lands, the Foreman Creek BIC facility may see increased informal day use and land-based overnight walk-in camping during low-water conditions.

6.2.7 Goat Ranch BIC

Existing Resources: This campground is located on the North Fork arm Lake Oroville between the Bloomer campgrounds, where the West Branch splits off of the North Fork arm (Figure 1.0-2). The area has five individual campsites with tables and fire rings with cooking grills (Table 6.2-1). The site has shade trees, two vault toilets and two pit toilets, and about five trash receptacles.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility.

6.2.8 Floating Campsites

Existing Resources: Lake Oroville has 10 boat-in floating campsites (Table 6.2-1). These popular floating campsites are dispersed among different areas of the reservoir, generally anchored in a protected cove. Each floating campsite is a two-story structure that can accommodate up to 15 people, with living space and amenities such as a gas cooking grill, table, sink, restroom, shelves, storage room, cabinets, and a sleeping area. The user must bring potable water, although sink water is provided (DPR 2000a). Floating campsites developed to this degree are not known to be available anywhere else in the West.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will install three additional new floating campsites (two to be deployed in the Lime Saddle area and one to be deployed in the West or North Fork areas of the reservoir). These new floating campsites will be deployed so that they are more easily accessible from the Lime Saddle Marina and Boat Ramp (Figure 1.0-2). These new floating campsites will be operated and maintained in the same manner as the other existing floating campsites.

6.3 DAY USE AREAS

Recreation facilities discussed in this section (Table 6.3-1) include:

- Lake Oroville Visitors Center
- Feather River Fish Hatchery
- Oroville Dam
- Floating Restrooms
- Diversion Pool DU

Table 6.3-1. Day use area (DUA) and other recreation area facilities.

Recreation Area	Use	Shoreline Access	Day Use					Health & Safety						Other	
			Tables	BBQ	Shade Trees	Sun Shelters	Interpretation Displays	Vault Toilets	Portable Toilets	Flush Toilets	Drinking Water	Telephone	Trash Receptacles	Parking Spaces	Other Facilities
Lake Oroville Visitors Center	Day use trailhead access	No	18 (10 ADA)	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	—	6 (all ADA)	Yes	1	6	90 car & 17 car/ trailer	viewing tower, gift shop
Feather River Fish Hatchery	Fish viewing	Yes	1	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	—	2	Yes	1	Yes	100	viewing platform and window
Oroville Dam	Driving, sightseeing, walking, biking	Yes	8	—	—	—	Yes	—	—	4 (1 ADA)	Yes	—	1	20 approx.	—
Floating Restrooms		—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diversion Pool DUAs	Non-motorized boating, hiking/walking, swimming	Yes	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	Road Parking	—
Aquatic Center	Non-motorized boating, storehouse for boats, area for holding classes	Yes	117	—	Yes	—	Yes	—		10 (3 ADA)[1]	Yes	1	Yes	217[1]	Pay Station[1]
Model Aircraft Flying Facility	Flying model aircraft	Yes	6	1	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	20 approx.	Runway
Clay Pit SVRA	OHV riding	No	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20 approx.	—
Rabe Road Shooting Range	Range and target shooting	No	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	20 approx.	—
OWA Thermalito Afterbay Outlet DUA	Fishing and swimming	Yes	---	---	Yes	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	Yes	Undefined	---

[1] Facilities are associated with the North Thermalito Forebay BR/DUA (Section 6.4.5).
Note: The dash indicates that there is no facility or that the category does not apply.
Source: DWR 2003. Updated 2004

- Aquatic Center
- Model Aircraft Flying Facility
- Clay Pit SVRA
- Rabe Road Shooting Range
- Lake Oroville Scenic Overlook
- OWA Thermalito Afterbay Outlet DUA

The following DUAs are not discussed in this section, but with the associated boat ramps (BRs) in Section 6.4:

- Bidwell Canyon DUA
- Loafer Creek DUA
- Lime Saddle DUA
- Spillway DUA
- North Thermalito Forebay DUA
- South Thermalito Forebay DUA
- Monument Hill DUA

6.3.1 Lake Oroville Visitors Center

Existing Resources: Located east of Oroville Dam on Kelly Ridge, the 10,000 square-foot, award-winning Lake Oroville Visitors Center features exhibits on the engineering and construction of the hydropower and water supply facilities (Figure 1.0-2). Interpretive displays explain how Lake Oroville and the associated project area facilities distribute water and electrical power to their destinations (DWR 2000). Additionally, there are interpretive displays on the native culture and the natural resources of the area (DPR 2000a). The Visitors Center hosts individual visitors as well as large groups such as school fieldtrips. In addition to the informational displays inside the Visitors Center, there is a 47-foot viewing tower that provides a panoramic view of Lake Oroville and its surroundings. The Visitors Center is ADA accessible and has 18 picnic tables (10 ADA accessible), shade trees, drinking fountains, a gift shop, a telephone, six toilets (all ADA accessible), parking for 90 vehicles, and 17 spaces for either vehicle/trailer combinations or buses (Table 6.3-1). The Dan Beebe Trail can be accessed from the Visitors Center (Section 6.5.9).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will provide some enhancements to existing interpretive materials, programs, and facilities at the Visitors Center. Potential future uses and activities at this existing facility will be periodically reviewed and considered within the ORCA and/or RAC forums as part of future development of the I&E Program. Based upon monitoring results during L2 to L5 phases and determination of needs, the licensee will provide additional parking capacity at this facility in the future if and when needed.

6.3.2 Feather River Fish Hatchery DUA

Existing Resources: Anadromous fish migration up the Feather River is stopped at the Fish Barrier Dam, just downstream from the Diversion Pool and Dam. Salmon climb the fish ladder into the Feather River Fish Hatchery where DFG selects fish for breeding.

Recreation and public use facilities on the north bank of the Feather River include a visitor area with a landscaped parking lot, restrooms, and an observation platform overlooking the Diversion Dam and its flow over the dam (Table 6.3-1). There is an area with windows into the fish ladder, making it possible to observe fish as they swim up the ladder. Windows are also provided along the spawning building to allow visitors to watch the spawning process. A visitor observation area is also provided at the gathering and holding tanks.

The Feather River Fish Hatchery is ADA accessible. The amenities include designated parking areas, restrooms, and accessible ramps (Table 6.3-1). The ramps provide access to the viewing platform, viewing window, and the gathering tank at the top of the fish ladder.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will provide ongoing periodic updates of the interpretive materials and possible new interpretive signs and/or kiosks and paths. Otherwise, no changes are proposed at this facility. This site will be considered for additional enhancements during later review of the I&E Program within the ORCA and/or RAC forums.

In addition, the licensee will enhance an existing non-motorized boater put-in within the Feather River Fish Hatchery DUA or vicinity, in coordination with DBW. Site selection for boater put-ins will include one or two other sites downstream, pending completion of an analysis of potential non-motorized water trail shoreline access sites (Table B-2, Appendix B). The Feather River Fish Hatchery DUA site for a put-in may be substituted in favor of another nearby put-in site in the vicinity. Improvements will include a small gravel shoreline access site to accommodate the launching of hand-carried non-motorized watercraft, signage, vehicle access barriers, and minor roadway or trail grading and graveling. Use of existing facilities or disturbed areas, including parking and roadway access, will be maximized.

6.3.3 Oroville Dam Overlook DUAs

Existing Resources: Located on the southwest shoreline of the reservoir, the crest of Oroville Dam is used for driving and sightseeing, walking, jogging, bicycling, and rollerblading (Figure 1.0-2). Some fishing takes place at the edge and can be undertaken at any reservoir level. Oroville Dam is the tallest earthfill dam in the nation with a height of 770 feet (DWR 2000). At night, lights accent the 6,920-foot-long roadway along the dam's crest.

The Oroville Dam Overlook DUAs are located on the east and west ends of the dam, all of which are east of the Spillway BR. There are picnic tables on the east and west ends (eight tables total). There are four flush toilets (one ADA accessible) at the east end of the dam (Table 6.3-1). There is a drinking fountain. There are approximately 400 parking spaces across the top of the dam (two are ADA accessible), but parking here has not been allowed since heightened security was implemented following the September 2001 terrorist attacks. Parking (approximately 20 vehicle spaces) remains open at the east end of the dam. Additionally, the DUA facilities at the western end of the dam were closed in the fall of 2002 for security reasons; appropriateness of use of this area may be reviewed in the future under certain water conditions.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The existing parking spaces nearest the south abutment of Oroville Dam and the existing restroom will be modified to enhance ADA-compliant access. Other improvements to be installed (adjacent to the existing parking area; Appendix C) will include shade ramadas, four picnic tables, and interpretive panels (ADA accessible scenic overview). Roughly 100 parking spaces will be provided on the terrace to the south of the dam, with surface improvements to the walkway that connects this parking lot to dam crest level.

6.3.4 Floating Restrooms

Existing Resources: To preserve water quality and provide convenience for boaters, DPR maintains seven floating restrooms on Lake Oroville (Table 6.3-1). Floating restrooms in California are most often of a standard design provided by DBW, and are constructed on floating platforms where several boats can tie up at the same time. Each floating restroom has two individual stalls with vault-style toilets. At Lake Oroville, they are deployed in strategic and convenient positions around the reservoir.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the informational materials, and replacement of existing facilities as needed, no changes are proposed at these facilities. However, if monitoring results demonstrate a need for additional or modified floating restrooms in the future, then new facilities will be deployed where appropriate.

6.3.5 Diversion Pool DUAs

Existing Resources: The Diversion Pool and its shoreline, located below Oroville Dam and above Thermalito Diversion Dam, are open for day use activities such as swimming, fishing, non-motorized boating, trail use, and picnicking (Figure 1.0-2, Table 6.3-1). The current Diversion Pool DUA (north) is located along Burma Road, which runs on the north and west sides of the Diversion Pool. Only non-motorized boats are allowed on the Diversion Pool (electric motors are also allowed). The only developed facility at this area is a vault toilet building; one small shoreline access point has been enhanced with gravel to facilitate car-top boat launching. Burma Road is also a trail corridor. A second new DUA is proposed along the southern Diversion Pool shoreline with access from the Lakeland Boulevard Trailhead Access (TA).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will enhance the existing (north) Diversion Pool DUA by installing 10 concrete picnic tables in suitable locations along Burma Road and upstream from the Diversion Dam. Each picnic table will be paired with a pole stove/grill (Appendix C).

An ADA accessible fishing platform or pier will be constructed at a suitable Diversion Pool location, such as along Burma Road near the vault toilet building in an area known for fishing success, or at the new southern shoreline DUA.

DWR will enhance trail and vehicular access to the Diversion Pool (south shoreline) from the Lakeland Boulevard TA by relocating and/or constructing a new road to the old railroad grade trail corridor north of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) crossing of the Diversion Pool (Figure 1.0-2, Appendix C). The licensee will construct limited day use facilities on the old railroad grade to include a gravel parking area with space for vehicles pulling small trailers, vault toilet building, 10 picnic tables with pole stoves/grills, a gravel car-top boat ramp, and pedestrian trail access to the water. The licensee will install fencing as appropriate to separate the access road and proposed day use facilities from the railroad tracks.

The licensee proposes to open the Burma Road and adjacent portions of the Brad Freeman Trail to equestrian use. The licensee will also evaluate the feasibility of providing trail crossing(s) of the Diversion Pool, to complete a shorter Diversion Pool trail loop.

6.3.6 Aquatic Center

Existing Resources: The Aquatic Center at the North Thermalito Forebay BR/DUA (Table 6.3-1) is managed by DPR for the use of boating clubs and educational institutions (Figure 1.0-2). The site is accessed using the same road (Garden Drive) as North Thermalito Forebay. The 1,200 square-foot facility was constructed in 1995 to provide area sailing and rowing clubs with a boathouse and an area for holding classes (DWR 2000). In 2004, DPR entered into an agreement with California State University, Chico (CSUC), to conduct water- and boating-related educational programs for students and other LOSRA visitors. Aquatic Center users generally access the Thermalito Forebay using one of the two boat ramps shared with other day use visitors.

DWR, DPR, and DBW have recently expanded the Aquatic Center, under the existing Amended Recreation Plan and current FERC license, to support the CSUC-based programs at this site. Additional boat storage capacity was required to make adequate watercraft available at this facility; so a 7,500 square-foot boat storage building was added in 2005 near the existing building (Figure 1.0-2). This building now provides program support and associated security for boats and equipment. Other recent improvements include installation of a 16-by-60 foot low-freeboard floating dock attached to three new steel piles, accessed by a new 8-by-60 foot gangway, and additional ADA-designated parking.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will maintain the facility improvements at the Aquatic Center to help meet basic needs. The licensee will not be involved in Aquatic Center staffing or its programs that are managed by others (CSUC, or other educational institutions).

6.3.7 Model Aircraft Flying Facility

Existing Resources: Model aircraft enthusiasts have use of a 350-by-300 foot runway for take-offs and landings near North Wilbur Road at the Afterbay Canal (Figure 1.0-2). The site has a paved runway for model aircraft take-offs and landings that was upgraded in 2002, as well as a vault toilet building, six picnic tables, a BBQ, and two shade ramadas (Table 6.3-1). The site is located off Wilbur Road, north of SR 162 with access just north of the power canal that runs between Thermalito Forebay and Afterbay. Off Wilbur Road, a gated, gravel road runs for approximately ¼ mile to the Model Aircraft Flying Facility. The area can be accessed from the water as well (boats using Thermalito Afterbay can beach at the site). The site is mainly used by Oroville Model Airplane Club members, with other access occasionally arranged for special groups, activities, or events.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials/bulletin boards, no changes are proposed at this facility. If vehicular damage is observed along the north side of the access road to this site in the future, barriers and/or fencing may be included as a routine O&M component to minimize or avoid potential impacts to vernal pools and wildlife habitat.

6.3.8 Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area

Existing Resources: Located adjacent to the OWA and outside the Project No. 2100 boundary, the Clay Pit SVRA provides a riding area for off-highway vehicle (OHV) enthusiasts (Figure 1.0-2). The site is accessed from Larkin Road and is south of SR 162 and the Oroville Municipal Airport. The clay used to build the core of Oroville Dam was taken from this area. The resulting depression, a wide and broad sunken pit ringed with low hills, is the site of this 220-acre OHV recreation area. It is a motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, and dune buggy use area (DPR 2000b). There is a well-marked entrance road that leads to a paved staging area used for loading and unloading OHVs (Table 6.3-1). Aside from the paved staging area and the entrance road, the entire site is one large open dirt area where OHVs (including trucks) can explore.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Located outside the Project No. 2100 boundary, the licensee will coordinate with DPR managers of the Clay Pit SVRA. Information directing OHV enthusiasts to this facility will be posted at project recreation areas, especially in the OWA, to help reduce illegal OHV use in adjacent and other areas. DWR will coordinate with DPR and DFG in the development and periodic update of consistent project-related information and interpretive materials.

6.3.9 Rabe Road Shooting Range

Existing Resources: This shooting range is located outside of the Project No. 2100 boundary and is managed by DFG. It is an unstaffed public shooting area with unmarked backstops (undefined places to place paper targets) reported to facilitate a range up to 500 yards in distance. It is technically a rifle range, but pistol use commonly occurs here as well. The shooting range is on Rabe Road, directly adjacent to the Clay Pit SVRA (Figure 1.0-2). Seven concrete picnic tables and a vault toilet building were installed at the gravel parking lot in spring 2003. There is a small sign that says "public shooting area" on Rabe Road.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: As this facility is outside the Project No. 2100 boundary, the licensee proposes no changes to this facility. However, DWR will coordinate with DFG in the development and periodic updates of any posted information or interpretive materials available within the project area.

6.3.10 Lake Oroville Scenic Overlook (SR 162)

Existing Resources: Located along SR 162 immediately north of the highway bridge across the Middle Fork arm of Lake Oroville, this highway pullout provides a scenic overlook of Lake Oroville toward Bidwell Canyon. Recent enhancements to this overlook have been completed. The licensee has removed the old cyclone-style fencing and replaced it with a Caltrans-approved auto safety barrier. In addition, the licensee has provided two new interpretive signs at this location (see Appendix C).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will provide a trash receptacle and trash pickup service in coordination with the Berry Creek Citizen's Association. Minor grading improvements (filling larger holes) at the head of the old construction road will also be made -- this remnant project construction feature is informally used as a trail for shoreline access by some visitors, especially during periods of higher lake levels.

6.3.11 OWA Thermalito Afterbay Outlet DUA

Existing Resources: The existing use area provides unpaved vehicular and pedestrian day use access to the Feather River shoreline, a very popular river fishing site adjacent to the Thermalito Afterbay outlet. A vault toilet building and trash receptacles are provided in this area (Appendix C).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will designate a day use area near the river on the south side of the outlet channel, and will install five to 10 (exact number depending on site capacity) new picnic tables. (Open fires, including pole stoves/grills, are expressly prohibited by DFG in this area; however, gas-style camp stoves are allowed). Additional roadside directional signs will be provided to aid users in locating this river access site. Existing access roads and parking will be re-graveled. Native arid landscaping or seeding will be provided to help revegetate disturbed areas and to provide some shade for visitors. This new development will be completed in

conjunction with the design, permitting, and construction of the proposed new OWA Thermalito Afterbay Outlet Camping Area on the north side of the outlet channel.

6.3.12 OWA Dispersed Use Sites and Dispersed River and Pond Access Sites

Existing Resources: Most of the OWA is undeveloped with a network of dirt and gravel roads providing access to the river and pond shoreline, floodplain, and upland areas. Within the overall OWA, few recreation facilities exist. However, dispersed recreation use is seasonally common among hunters, anglers, hikers, and other passive recreationists.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will provide two new "Watchable Wildlife" sites, with associated trash receptacles, vehicle barriers, signs, gravel shoulder parking, and possible site hardening and closure measures. The establishment of these sites will occur within the existing footprint of an established road shoulder; precise location of these sites will be determined but may include popular interpretive destinations (such as adjacent to the Monument Hill DUA or off of SR 162 overlooking Thermalito Afterbay). All site enhancements and improvements will be sited to minimize potential impacts to special status species and their habitat.

In addition, the licensee will enhance two existing non-motorized boater put-ins/take-outs within the OWA and project boundary and designate them as access sites for the proposed "River Trail" (in coordination with DBW). Site selection is pending completion of an analysis of potential non-motorized water trail shoreline access sites (Table B-2, Appendix B). Potential boater put-in/take-out sites within the OWA include the existing boat ramp near the Afterbay Outlet and/or an undeveloped site with adjacent existing road access at the southern end of the OWA. Improvements include a small gravel shoreline access site to accommodate the launching of hand-carried, non-motorized watercraft, signage, vehicle access barriers, and minor roadway or trail grading and graveling.

6.4 BOAT RAMPS

The following boat ramps with associated day use areas are discussed in this section (Table 6.4-1):

- Bidwell Canyon BR/DUA
- Loafer Creek BR/DUA
- Lime Saddle BR/DUA
- Spillway BR/DUA
- North Thermalito Forebay BR/DUA

Table 6.4-1. Boat ramps and day use areas.

Recreation Area	Pay Station (self-registration or staffed booth)	Boating		Day Use						Health and Safety						Parking		
		Lanes on Boat Ramps (Useable Pool Levels)[1]	Other Facilities	Picnic Tables	BBQ Grills	Sun Shelters	Shade Trees	Other	Fish Cleaning Station	Portable Toilets	Flush Toilets	Drinking Water	Telephone	Trash Receptacles	Other	Car Parking Spaces	Car/Trailer Parking Spaces	Overflow Parking
Bidwell Canyon BR & DUA	1	7-H; 5-M; 2-4-L	1 Floating Dock, Marina	21	—	—	Yes	Bidwell Bar Historical Bridge & Tollhouse	1	—	8 (2 ADA)	Yes	1	20	1 Gray Water Sump	U	279 (2 ADA)	Yes, small gravel lot (30 cars)
Lime Saddle BR & DUA	1	4-M to H; 2-3-L	Marina	13 (4 ADA)	—	7	Yes	—	1	—	4 (all ADA)	Yes	1	11	—	45 (3 ADA)	131 (7 ADA)	Yes/100 car/ trailer spaces
Loafer Creek BR & DUA	1	8-M to H; 2-L	1 Floating Dock	30	17	—	Yes	1 Playground; Swim Area w/ Beach	—	—	10 (all ADA)	Yes	1	3	2 showers	DUA: 251 (5 ADA)	BR: 192 (6 ADA)	—
Monument Hill BR & DUA		2	1 Floating Dock	10	9	—	—	Swim Beach	1	—	4	—	—	8	—	10 (1 ADA)	39 (3 ADA)	Yes, large gravel lot
North Thermalito Forebay BR & DUA	1	2 ramps, 1 with 2 lanes, 1 with 3 lanes	1 Floating Dock at each ramp	117	37	21	Yes	1 Swim Area w/ Beach	—	7 (1 ADA)	6 (4 ADA)	Yes	1	18	—	251 (3 ADA)	26 (1 ADA)	Yes
South Thermalito Forebay BR & DUA	1	2	1 Floating Dock	10	10	—	Yes	—	1	1	—	—	—	6	—	U	U	—
Spillway BR & DUA	1	12-M to H; 8-L to M; 2-L	3 Floating Docks	6	—	6	Yes	—	1	—	6 (2 ADA)	Yes	—	7	—	118 Upper (8 ADA)	350 Upper (8 ADA), 264 Lower	—

Note: The dash indicates that there is no facility or that the category does not apply.
[1] U = Undesignated; L = Low; M = Medium; H = High, high reservoir levels are defined as those above 850 feet msl. Medium reservoir levels are those from 800 to 850 feet msl. Low reservoir levels are those that fall below 800 feet msl. These divisions are based on historic pool levels (DWR CDEC 2003).
Source: DWR 2003

- South Thermalito Forebay BR/DUA
- Monument Hill (Thermalito Afterbay) BR/DUA

The following smaller boat ramps currently without any associated day use areas are also discussed in this section (Table 6.4-2):

- Enterprise BR
- Wilbur Road (Thermalito Afterbay) BR
- Dark Canyon Car-top BR
- Foreman Creek Car-top BR
- Larkin Road (Thermalito Afterbay) Car-top BR
- Nelson Bar Car-top BR
- Stringtown Car-top BR
- Vinton Gulch Car-top BR
- Afterbay Outlet BR
- OWA Unimproved Boat Ramps/Thermalito Afterbay Outlet BR

6.4.1 Bidwell Canyon BR/DUA

Existing Resources: Located along the southern shore of Lake Oroville, east of Oroville Dam (Figure 1.0-2), the boat ramp is a home base for many boaters (Stienstra 2000). The Bidwell Canyon Complex is one of the major attractions in the project area and is also discussed in Section 6.1.1 – Bidwell Canyon Campground. There is a visitor information station and fee collection booth, as well as a full-service marina (Table 6.4-1). There are two areas with sun shelters, BBQs, and picnic tables (21 in total) at the DUA. The site has drinking water, eight flush toilets (two are ADA accessible), gray water sump, seven-lane boat ramp, telephone, and a fish cleaning station.

Generally, the Bidwell Canyon facilities are available at high, medium, and low reservoir levels. The lower boat ramp was extended to 700 feet msl in December 2002. There is parking for 279 vehicles/trailers in the upper parking lot (Table 6.4-1). The lower ramp has an unpaved parking area with space for about 30 vehicles/trailers. The relocated historical Bidwell Bar Suspension Bridge and Bidwell Bridge Toll House are located adjacent to the boat ramp parking lot.

The concessionaire-run marina offers boat rentals, groceries, fishing supplies, snack bar, approximately 280 berths and 400 mooring anchors, fuel dock, pumping station for boat holding tanks, boat storage, and trailer facilities with hookups (DWR 2000). Parking for 168 single-vehicles is available at the marina at full pool. Over 100 additional single-vehicle parking spaces at the marina become available in the inundation zone as the reservoir level recedes.

Table 6.4-2. Boat ramp facilities not currently associated with a DUA.

Recreation Area	Use		Boating	Health & Safety			Parking
	Activities	Pool Level when Boat Ramp is Available	Lanes on Boat Ramp	Portable Toilet	Vault Toilet	Trash Receptacles	Car/Trailer Parking Spaces
Afterbay Outlet BR	Boating	NA[1]	1	—	—	—	no designated parking: approx. 5-10
Enterprise BR	Boating	Medium to High	2	—	1	3	40
OWA Unimproved BRs	Boating	NA[1]	1	—	—	—	no designated parking: number varies depending on location
Wilbur Road BR	Day Use Boating	NA[1]	2	1	—	1	14 (1 ADA)
Dark Canyon Car-top BR	Car-Top Boating	Low to Medium	2	—	1	3	Undefined: approx. 15-30
Foreman Creek Car-top BR	Car-Top Boating	Low to High	2	—	—	1	Undefined: approx. 15-30 at low levels, approx. 7 at high levels
Larkin Road Car-top BR	Car-top Boating	NA[1]	—	—	1 (ADA)	1	Undefined: approx. 20
Nelson Bar Car-top BR	Car-Top Boating	High	—	—	1	2	Undefined: approx. 20
Stringtown Car-top BR	Car-Top Boating	Low to High	—	—	1	1	Undefined: approx. 6
Vinton Gulch Car-top BR	Car-Top Boating	High	1	—	1	2	no designated parking: approx. 10

[1] Not applicable. Water levels below the dam do not generally vary in a way that offers shoreline access.
Note: The dash indicates that there is no facility or that the category does not apply. Undefined means there is a designated parking area, but parking spaces are not delineated. No designated parking means there is roadside parking only.
Source: DWR 2003

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will construct approximately 215 new paved parking spaces (for vehicles with trailers) at up to three locations: 90 parking spaces at a new “Big Pine Loop” lot, 80 parking spaces at Bidwell Ramp #2 (existing gravel lot), and 45 parking spaces at a new Bidwell Ramp #3 (Appendix C).

DWR will construct a new marina parking lot on the site of the “Big Pine” loop of the existing campground and widen a narrow one-lane campground loop road (Figure 1.0-2, Appendix C). The new parking lot will provide approximately 90 single-vehicle parking spaces. This will necessitate the construction of a new replacement campground loop (see Section 6.1.1) adjacent to and south of the remaining “Gold Flat” loop (to mitigate for the loss of campground space due to expansion of Bidwell Marina parking facilities). This action requires clearing, grading, and paving at both sites.

The licensee will coordinate with DBW to install one or two (depending on appropriate dock configuration and lane widths) new floating docks at the top of the boat ramp to facilitate boat launching and retrieval at the Bidwell Canyon BR (only one dock will be deployed when the reservoir level falls below elevation 785 feet, the approximate point at which only two lanes are usable). This will be reassessed as the pool level drops. One longer floating dock may be used as the ramp narrows. These dock(s) will be periodically adjusted by DPR and/or the Bidwell Canyon Marina concessionaire as changing water levels warrant. Licensee will also coordinate with DPR to ensure adequate boat dock capacity for non-peak recreation season special events such as fishing tournaments.

The licensee will further coordinate with the concessionaire and DPR to increase ADA accessibility (to the extent feasible by the concessionaire) at the marina facilities, such as at the store.

While access to the marina is a concessionaire responsibility, the licensee will support safe and effective options for a new shuttle service (or other feasible options) to operate between parking facilities and the marina. This service will be explored as an added element in a new concessionaire contract when it is renewed. This potential shuttle service may be a fee service and may operate during peak use periods when parking may be distant, or during low pool periods when steep grades exist. This service would be a concessionaire-run shuttle. In addition, DWR will also support options to include additional dry boat storage as an added element in a new DPR concessionaire contract when it is renewed. State right-of-way via a lease or similar mechanism can be explored as an element to facilitate this potential new service.

This boat ramp will be extended to provide enhanced boat launching capability for Lake Oroville on a year-round basis. DWR will coordinate with DBW to extend a minimum of three boat ramp lanes down to 640 feet msl elevation and provide approximately 45 parking spaces at the top of Ramp #3 (elevation approximately 750 ft) with other additional parking along the length of Ramp #3. DWR will add a third lane to existing Bidwell Ramp #1 between elevations 781 feet and 745 feet, and possibly a fourth lane to this ramp if technically feasible, with a total cost not to exceed 20 percent of the new Bidwell Ramp #3 total project final design estimate. This work will be done concurrent with the first phase of the new Bidwell Ramp #3 or sooner. For phased construction of Bidwell Ramp #3, planned phases of 50 feet, 30 feet, and 30 feet of vertical ramp footage, respectively, are anticipated.

DWR will also coordinate the resurfacing of the existing gravel parking lot (at 700 feet msl elevation and Ramp #2) with concrete (or asphalt, if permitted in the future) to provide 80 parking spaces. Ramp lanes will be extended when the reservoir pool level drops to a sufficient level and for a sufficient timeframe to allow construction to occur, pursuant to normal project operations and permit acquisition. The ramp lanes would be built in segments as feasible. Permitting and other construction approvals will be

completed in advance in anticipation of these extensions. Additional design and engineering work is still required by DBW.

During peak use when wait times indicate the need, both lanes at the Bidwell Canyon BR/DUA/Marina entry station will be in operation with the right-hand lane being used for (at a minimum) park season-pass holders.

DWR will coordinate with DPR to arrange for its concessionaire to offer a whitewater-boater fee-based shuttle service, to the extent feasible, to paddlers from a take-out/end-of-trip point on the Middle Fork arm of Lake Oroville to the marina at Bidwell Canyon. This fee-based, concessionaire-run service option will be included in the next DPR-Marina concessionaire contract when it is due for renewal (2009). The shuttle service will be contingent upon the demonstrated use and feasibility of the other potential shuttle service to the North Fork arm (service to the marina at Lime Saddle). Frequency, scheduling, and fees of the service will be determined based upon user demand and reasonable use of concessionaire resources. Continuation of the shuttle service will be reassessed annually and will be contingent upon the feasibility of the service and the demonstrated use of the service.

6.4.2 Loafer Creek BR/DUA

Existing Resources: The boat ramp shares the same visitor information and fee collection booth as the other Loafer Creek attractions (Section 6.1.5; Figure 1.0-2). There is an eight-lane boat ramp and a large parking area for 192 vehicle/trailer combinations (Table 6.4-1). All eight lanes of the boat ramp are accessible to 800 feet msl. Two lanes are available as low as 775 feet msl. There are two ADA accessible flush toilets and a telephone at the boat ramp.

Located adjacent to the other Loafer Creek facilities (Section 6.1.5), the DUA offers opportunities for swimming, picnicking, and fishing. There are 30 or more picnic tables (some ADA accessible), 17 BBQs (including several large group grills), shade trees, swimming area with a beach at higher pool levels, playground area, eight flush toilets (all ADA accessible), drinking fountains, showers, and parking for 251 vehicles, five of which are ADA accessible spaces (Table 6.4-1). The best opportunities for use of the DUA are at reservoir levels from 900 down to about 850 feet msl.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee proposes to coordinate with DBW to install one to two new floating dock(s) to facilitate boat launching and retrieval at the Loafer Creek BR (only one dock will be deployed when reservoir level falls below elevation 800 feet, the point at which only two lanes are usable). The existing floating dock may be replaced with a new single, long (80 ft) dock. These docks will be periodically adjusted by DPR as changing water levels warrant (Appendix A).

The licensee proposes that an existing dirt service road at the Loafer Creek DUA be widened, graded, and graveled to approximate elevation 750 feet msl (Appendices A

and C). This gated service road will be opened to the public when the developed Loafer Creek BR becomes dewatered, to allow enhanced car-top boat access for users of the Loafer Creek facilities. The existing day use parking facility will continue to serve car-top boaters when this ramp is made available.

To enhance opportunities for swimming and related day use, especially for periods when reservoir level recedes below elevation 850 feet msl, the licensee will prepare a feasibility report investigating alternatives for extended-season warm water swimming at Project No. 2100 sites including Loafer Creek (Appendices A and C). Alternatives to be reviewed may include but are not necessarily limited to: a surface water sub-impoundment ("swimming lagoon") on-site; a treated–water, hardened facility (on-site "pool"); an off-site swimming pool or water activity center; or a sub-impoundment/ swimming lagoon at an alternative project recreation area or reservoir. Because of the existing swim beach facility at Loafer Creek and the periodic high levels of use within the Loafer Creek Complex, this location will have priority over other sites. If a feasible and cost-effective solution is identified, then implementation of at least one new Lake Oroville based warm water swimming venue will commence within 2 years of acceptance of the new license. Additionally, in conjunction with the swim facility feasibility study, DWR will also evaluate the feasibility of including a concessionaire-operated campground/DUA activity center and store/snack bar at this site.

A fish cleaning station will be provided near the boat ramp; the location is to be determined and would be connected to an existing septic system where feasible. Near the Loafer Creek BR/DUA, a new single-vault toilet building will be constructed at Brooks Orchard to replace a vandalized portable toilet.

6.4.3 Lime Saddle BR/DUA

Existing Resources: Located on the western shoreline of the West Branch of the North Fork arm of Lake Oroville, the Lime Saddle area is one of the major attractions at the Oroville Facilities (Figure 1.0-2). There is a staffed entrance kiosk where information is provided and fees are collected. Adjacent to the entrance kiosk are four single-vehicle parking spaces (one is ADA accessible). At the Lime Saddle BR/DUA, there are 13 picnic tables (four are ADA accessible), seven sun shelters, four flush toilets (all ADA accessible), drinking fountain, telephone, four-lane boat ramp with two lanes extending down to elevation 702 feet msl, fish cleaning station, and trash receptacles (Table 6.4-1). These facilities are all located on the main parking level at the top of the boat ramp. In the main parking area there are 45 single-vehicle parking spaces (three are ADA accessible) and 131 vehicle/ trailer spaces (seven are ADA accessible). Additionally, there is parking above the main level in an overflow lot suited for approximately 70 vehicle/trailer combination spaces, and another 64 single-vehicle parking spaces are available in a lot near the entrance kiosk (Table 6.4-1). A primary attraction in the Lime Saddle area is a concessionaire-run marina that offers gas for boats, a boat repair and supply shop, general store with bait and tackle, and pump-out station. The marina also offers rentals for houseboats, patio boats, fishing boats, and ski boats. Also available at

the marina are short- and long-term overnight moorage, docks, and covered and open slips. A new concessionaire, under a contract solicited and managed by DPR, assumed operations of the marina in 2004.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will replace the 13 older existing picnic tables and seven existing shade structures with new facilities similar or superior to picnic sites at other project recreation areas. In addition, new pole stoves/grills will be added. New day use facilities will be ADA compliant (Appendix A).

An additional 60 paved vehicle/trailer parking spaces will be constructed adjacent to the existing boat ramp/marina parking area.

During the L1 phase, the licensee will coordinate with DBW to install one new floating dock on the right-hand side (looking down the ramp) to supplement the existing marina gangway and dock system to facilitate boat launching and retrieval at the Lime Saddle BR. This will require the installation of a new anchor system as well. Docks will be periodically adjusted by DPR and/or the Lime Saddle Marina concessionaire as changing water levels warrant.

The new Lime Saddle Marina concessionaire is responsible for any needed repairs to the marina facilities; the current or any future concessionaire will restore facilities to provide an appropriate and optimum level of service comparable to facilities and service available prior to the destructive 2002 wind storm. The licensee will also coordinate with the concessionaire and DPR to increase ADA accessibility to the extent feasible by the concessionaire (Appendix A).

The licensee will investigate the feasibility of enhancing opportunities for swimming and related day use (Appendix A), especially for periods when reservoir level recedes below elevation 850 feet msl, in the Parish Cove area (between Lime Saddle Marina and Campground) and at other Project No. 2100 sites. A potential new swimming facility at the Loafer Creek DUA would have priority over Lime Saddle (Section 6.4.2).

Based upon the results of the swim feasibility study, monitoring results during L2 to L5 phases, and determination of a sustained need (use levels at the L1 warm water swimming facility have reached capacity), the licensee will provide a new swim facility in Parish Cove if feasible (assuming that a new swim facility has already been constructed at the Loafer Creek Complex).

Additionally, in conjunction with the swim facility feasibility study, DWR will also evaluate the feasibility of providing a concessionaire-operated campground/day use area activity center and store/snack bar associated with this site and other suitable sites.

The licensee will continue to seek fee title land acquisition of the adjacent surplus Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) property, for use by marina and boat ramp

expansion purposes, if prior site assessment toxicity issues are resolved. Marina boat maintenance, parking, and dry storage uses would likely relocate to this new site when or if it becomes available.

DWR will coordinate with DPR to include in the next revision of the DPR-Marina concessionaire contract, a whitewater boater fee-based shuttle service, to the extent feasible, for paddlers from a take-out/end-of-trip point on the North Fork arm of Lake Oroville to the marina at Lime Saddle. Frequency, scheduling, and fees of the service will be determined based upon user demand and reasonable use of concessionaire resources. Continuation of the service will be contingent upon the feasibility of the shuttle service and demonstrated use of the service.

DWR will coordinate with PG&E to help provide whitewater boaters easier access to daily river flow release information from below the Poe Hydroelectric Project powerhouse on the North Fork Feather River just upstream from Lake Oroville.

A proposed new trail will connect the Lime Saddle Campground with the Lime Saddle BR/DUA/Marina, via Parish Cove. As this campground and marina have no equestrian facilities to support nor are they designated for equestrian use, the proposed trail would serve primarily hikers and bicyclists seeking to travel to and from the campground and the surrounding lakeshore. This proposed 3.5-mile trail would be within the Lake Oroville Management Unit (as outlined in Chapter 5), which also includes trails at Bidwell Canyon and Loafer Creek (see Appendix D). DWR proposes to construct this trail in cooperation with DPR.

Finally, based on monitoring results and a demonstrated sustained need during the L2 to L5 phases, the licensee will provide a new Parish Cove day use/picnic area with picnic tables, shade ramadas, and pole stoves; this area will be linked by the aforementioned trail to the existing campground and marina/boat ramp area.

6.4.4 Spillway BR/DUA

Existing Resources: This is the largest boat ramp facility at Lake Oroville, adjacent to the right abutment of Oroville Dam (Figure 1.0-2). Development here consists of two stages of multi-lane boat ramps. One stage of ramps has eight lanes and can be used during low to medium water levels, while the other has 12 lanes and can be used during medium to high water. The eight-lane ramp is separate from the 12-lane ramp, and each has its own accompanying parking lot. During high water, the lower eight-lane ramp and its asphalt parking lot are submerged. The lower eight-lane boat ramp was extended to 695 feet msl in January 2003.

The site has a seasonally staffed visitor information and fee collection booth. The site has six flush toilets (two ADA accessible), drinking water, a fish cleaning station, and picnic sites (six tables) with shade trees and sun shelters (Table 6.4-1). The upper lot has 350 vehicle/trailer parking spaces, 40 of which have been set aside for “en route”

(self-contained) RV camping (Section 6.1.7). The main ramp has spaces for a maximum of 75 vehicles/trailers available at medium and low pool levels. There are 118 single-vehicle parking spaces (eight ADA accessible) in the upper lot. The shoreline access allows for fishing at all reservoir levels.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The Licensee will coordinate with DBW to determine the optimum number and configuration of floating docks (depending on appropriate dock configuration and lane widths). If more than three floating docks are feasible, additional boarding dock(s) will be deployed during the L1 phase to maximize boat launching capacity. Licensee will also coordinate with DPR to ensure adequate boat dock capacity for non-peak recreation season special events such as fishing tournaments.

The existing concession contract for the Bidwell Canyon Marina includes an option to provide limited marina mooring and service facilities at the Spillway BR. The licensee will coordinate with DPR and its marina service concessionaire(s) at any future time if the concessionaire demonstrates the interest and ability to provide such service. Coordination will be for the purposes of ensuring the safety of Oroville Dam and protection and enhancement of recreation and natural resources in the Spillway area.

6.4.5 North Thermalito Forebay BR/DUA

Existing Resources: The North Thermalito Forebay (Figure 1.0-2) hosts non-motorized boating and other recreational activities (DWR 2000). The North Thermalito Forebay BR/DUA has a seasonally staffed visitor information and fee collection booth and two paved boat ramps, one with two lanes and one with three lanes (Table 6.4-1). There are six flush toilets (four are ADA accessible) and 251 single-vehicle parking spaces (three are ADA accessible). The site also has 26 vehicle/trailer parking spaces (one is ADA accessible). Additional parking is available along the south side of the picnic area. The DUA has a swimming beach, large picnic area with 117 tables, large and small shared BBQ grills, shade trees, drinking faucets, and a telephone. There are additional picnic sites near the Aquatic Center and a hardened trail that circles the lagoon. The interpretive displays have been recently renovated (pers. comm., Feazel 2003).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Additions proposed to the DUA and boat ramp facilities include enhanced non-motorized trail opportunities and a fish cleaning station. Enhanced non-motorized trail opportunities at the Forebay would be designed to minimize or avoid potential impacts to and/or loss of wetland and giant garter snake habitat. Existing opportunities at this site are expected to be enhanced by new services provided by the tenant of the existing and expanded Aquatic Center (Section 6.3.6).

The licensee will conduct a feasibility study to evaluate warmer water swimming options at this site as well as other Project No. 2100 locations. In addition, water quality will be monitored and maintained in the swimming cove.

The fish cleaning station component will be provided if this new facility can be connected to the existing sewage system (exact location to be determined).

6.4.6 South Thermalito Forebay BR/DUA

Existing Resources: Located at the southern end of the Thermalito Forebay, this recreational site has a self-registration pay station, a two-lane boat ramp, 10 picnic tables, 10 BBQs, shade trees, vault toilet building, and a fish cleaning station (Figure 1.0-2). There is a graded and graveled parking area approximately 60 yards square near the boat ramp and an undetermined number of parking spaces near the picnic tables (Table 6.4-1).

Power boating (limited to about 330 acres of the Thermalito Forebay's 630-acre pool) and fishing are the South Forebay's main recreation uses (DWR 2000). Shoreline swimming also takes place at this DUA. The interpretive displays have been recently renovated (pers. comm., Feazel 2003).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee proposes to coordinate with DPR to improve a portion (approximately 100 linear feet) of the existing shoreline for swimming and related recreation use by the placement of approximately six inches of sand between elevations 220 and 230 feet msl (Appendix A). Additional picnic tables, with pole stoves and shade ramadas, will be installed at the back of the beach area. Additional landscaping with shade trees and shrubs will be added to this site to enhance the site for day users. Adjacent to ADA accessible parking, an ADA accessible fishing platform or pier will be constructed. To enhance safety of swimmers, buoys will be placed 200 feet from shore to designate a five-mph zone for boaters and personal watercraft (PWC) users. All site enhancements will be sited to minimize or avoid potential impacts to vernal pools.

6.4.7 Monument Hill BR/DUA

Existing Resources: With 17 miles of shoreline and 4,300 surface acres of water, the Thermalito Afterbay is open for boating, swimming, fishing, picnicking, and limited hunting (DWR 2000). The surface and shoreline are within the OWA, but recreation facilities and boat ramps are managed by DWR.

A two-lane boat ramp with floating dock is available at the Monument Hill site on the eastern shoreline of the Afterbay (Figure 1.0-2). There are 10 picnic tables, nine BBQs, four flush toilets (one is ADA accessible but is not signed as such), fish cleaning station, and swimming beach. There are 10 single-vehicle parking spaces (one is ADA accessible) and 39 vehicle/trailer combination spaces (three are ADA accessible). Additionally, there is a graded and graveled parking area approximately 60 yards square in area (Table 6.4-1) that provides room for about 30 to 40 additional vehicles with trailers.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility at this time. If the gravel overflow parking area becomes inadequate in the future, then it will be expanded and paved if needed.

6.4.8 Enterprise BR

Existing Resources: The Enterprise BR is located on the South Fork arm of Lake Oroville (Figure 1.0-2). It has a 2-lane boat ramp that can be used during medium and high reservoir levels (the end of the ramp is at approximately 835 feet msl). When the reservoir is below about 800 feet msl, the site is closed to protect cultural resources. Fishing and swimming also take place along the shoreline at this site. There are 40 vehicle/trailer parking spaces (Table 6.4-2). A new vault toilet building was installed in 2003.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will coordinate with DBW to develop a low-water ramp at the Enterprise BR, beginning at or near the foot of the existing ramp, and extending to about 750 feet msl elevation (Appendix A). The exact alignment will be dependent upon completion of detailed cultural resource surveys and engineering studies. An alignment will be chosen to avoid or minimize impacts to cultural resources. Facility amenities will include a vault toilet building (recently installed as an Interim Project), up to 10 picnic tables with pole stoves/grills, and if feasible add gravel parking for 10 vehicles with trailers as close to the 750 elevation as possible. A new floating dock and cable system will be installed at the existing and extended boat ramps. The recreational improvements at this site will also be located to avoid or minimize impacts to environmentally-sensitive areas and will further protect these resources through the restriction (by fencing, barriers, and/or signs) of recreational activities to the improved facilities.

6.4.9 Wilbur Road BR

Existing Resources: The Wilbur Road BR consists of a 2-lane paved boat ramp, dock, parking lot able to accommodate 14 vehicle/trailer combination spaces (1 is ADA accessible space), and vault toilet building (Table 6.4-2). In addition to the designated boat ramp, informal boat launching occurs at several unimproved areas between this site and SR 162. These informal boat launching areas are occasionally accessed with trailers, though most are only suited for car-top launching.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Waters in proximity to the Wilbur Road BR are proposed to be subject to a new 5-mph boating speed limit imposed on the portion of the Afterbay north of SR 162 (Appendix A). It is not known how this localized restriction will affect use of the Wilbur Road BR. Monitoring results will be compared to future use projections and threshold criteria (Section 7.3), and 10 additional paved parking spaces will be constructed in the future if needs warrant. New roadside directional signs will be provided for easier locating of this facility by visitors.

6.4.10 Dark Canyon Car-Top BR

Existing Resources: Dark Canyon Car-top BR is located on the West Branch of the North Fork arm of Lake Oroville (Figure 1.0-2). The single-lane boat ramp is used at low to high reservoir levels. There is a paved parking lot (approximately 20 yards square that can accommodate between 15 and 30 vehicles). There are three pull-out areas between the parking lot and the end of the boat ramp. There is a defunct vault toilet building and trash receptacles at this site (Table 6.4-2). The old roadbed in the inundation zone, at elevations below the existing concrete surface, will not be maintained and may be problematic at lower Lake elevations.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will replace the existing, defunct vault toilet building at this location with a new structure (Appendix A). New roadside directional signs will be provided for easier locating of this facility by visitors.

6.4.11 Foreman Creek Car-Top BR

Existing Resources: Foreman Creek Car-top BR is located on the north side of the main basin of Lake Oroville (Figure 1.0-2). The two-lane boat ramp, essentially an abandoned County road, can be used at all reservoir levels. Boating, fishing, and swimming all take place at this site. When reservoir levels fall below 800 feet msl, the site is closed at night and additional security is present during the day to protect cultural resources. Designated parking areas accommodate approximately 15 to 30 vehicles/trailers. At high reservoir elevations, there is only roadside parking, which will accommodate approximately seven vehicles. There is no toilet building, but one trash receptacle is provided at this site (Table 6.4-2).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: In coordination with implementation of a future draft Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP), the licensee will take recommended actions to reroute visitor use and possibly the access road away from cultural resources. The licensee will install an ADA-accessible vault toilet building, interpretive signage, and five to 10 picnic tables with shade ramadas. Poles stoves will also be installed if deemed permissible from a fire safety or fuel load management perspective. These enhancements will be located at a suitable scenic promontory near the high water line (Appendices A and C).

6.4.12 Larkin Road Car-Top BR

Existing Resources: The Larkin Road Car-top BR has a graded and graveled car-top boat ramp, a paved lot (approximately 50 yards square, which can accommodate about 20 vehicles/trailers), a single vault toilet building, and trash dumpster (Table 6.4-2). In addition to the designated launching area, there are four often-used access points that are not graded or graveled. There are dirt roads that lead to all four of these informal but regularly used launching areas; sunbathing, swimming, and picnicking/relaxing also occasionally occur here.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will improve a portion (approximately 100 linear feet) of the existing shoreline for swimming and related recreation use by the placement of approximately six inches of sand between elevations 132 and 125 feet msl (Appendix A). Improvements will be designed to avoid vernal pools and to minimize potential impacts to special status species and their habitat. Five to 10 picnic tables (exact number depending on site capacity), with pole stoves/grills and some with shade ramadas, will be installed at the back of the beach area. If ten picnic tables are not possible at this location, the remainder will be constructed at the Monument Hill site, or other suitable Afterbay day use location(s).

To enhance safety of swimmers, buoys will be placed 200 feet from shore to designate a five-mph no-wake zone for boaters and PWC users. New roadside directional signs will be provided for easier locating of this facility.

6.4.13 Nelson Bar Car-Top BR

Existing Resources: Nelson Bar Car-top BR is located on the West Branch of the North Fork arm of Lake Oroville (Figure 1.0-2). An improved cement surface extends to about 825 feet msl; small trailers are occasionally used to launch at high reservoir levels. The site has a gravel parking lot (approximately 40 yards square that can accommodate 20 to 25 vehicles/trailers) at elevation 894 feet msl. There are three pull-out/turnaround areas between the parking lot and the end of the boat ramp. There is a vault toilet building (not ADA accessible) and two trash receptacles (Table 6.4-2).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no substantive changes are proposed at this facility. The licensee will install a sign, barrier, and/or gate at the terminus of the boat ramp during lowered reservoir elevations for safety purposes. The old roadbed in the inundation zone, below the improved concrete ramp surface, will not be maintained and may be problematic at lower lake elevations. The Licensee's efforts to enhance the passability of this car-top boat ramp at lower lake elevations will be limited to the nominal placement of sand and/or gravel.

6.4.14 Stringtown Car-Top BR

Existing Resources: Stringtown Car-top BR is located on the South Fork arm of Lake Oroville (Figure 1.0-2). The boat ramp can be used at all reservoir levels but can become difficult below about 866 feet msl, where the improved concrete ramp ends and the unmaintained old roadbed (a former County road) continues into the inundation zone. There is space to park approximately six vehicles/trailers near the beginning of the boat ramp and a few other roadside parking areas. Visitors also fish and swim at this site. There is a vault toilet building (non-ADA accessible) and a trash receptacle (Table 6.4-2).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will install a sign, barrier, and/or gate at the terminus of the boat ramp during lowered reservoir elevations for safety

purposes. The old roadbed in the inundation zone is not maintained and may become problematic for launching at lower lake elevations. Additional roadside signage will be provided to assist visitors to more easily locate this site. The Licensee's efforts to enhance the passability of this car-top boat ramp at lower lake elevations will be limited to the nominal placement of sand and/or gravel.

6.4.15 Vinton Gulch Car-Top BR

Existing Resources: Vinton Gulch Car-top BR is located on the West Branch of the North Fork arm of Lake Oroville (Figure 1.0-2). This single-lane boat ramp is an old roadbed in the inundation zone and is not maintained. Usage may be problematic at low lake elevations. This ramp is typically not used at low or medium reservoir levels. In addition to boat launching, shoreline fishing also takes place at Vinton Gulch. There is no designated parking area; however, roadside parking can accommodate approximately 10 vehicles (more at lower water levels). The site has a vault toilet building (not ADA accessible) and two trash receptacles (Table 6.4-2).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility.

6.4.16 OWA Thermalito Afterbay Outlet BR

Existing Resources: The Afterbay Outlet BR is located upstream (northeast) of the Afterbay outlet on the Feather River, within the OWA boundary (Figure 1.0-2). There is no designated parking area; however, roadside parking can accommodate approximately five to 10 vehicles (Table 6.4-2). A restroom is available at the adjacent day use/camping area. The ramp is a gravel/dirt ramp that can be used to launch boats using a trailer; four-wheel drive vehicles are advised when the ramp is muddy (typically after rains).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: No changes are proposed at this boat ramp. However, in the next year or two, the existing boat ramp will be upgraded to concrete with paved parking and a paved access road also developed (completion scheduled for 2006 or 2007).

6.4.17 OWA Unimproved Boat Ramps

Existing Resources: There are several unimproved boat ramps within the OWA, including ramps located along the Feather River near the Vance Avenue and Palm Avenue entrances to the OWA. These ramps are unpaved gravel put-ins that users have expanded to use as boat ramps. Both car-top and trailer launching occurs at many of these ramps. There are no facilities or designated parking associated with any of the ramps.

There are also two unimproved boat ramps (not graded or graveled) on the north end of One Mile Pond; there is also an unimproved boat ramp (not graded or graveled) on the south end of One Mile Pond.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: No changes are proposed at unimproved boat ramps in this project management unit.

6.5 TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS

Appropriate use of project trails has been an issue of public controversy for several years. DWR and DPR have endeavored to collect and evaluate public comment through a number of forums, including public meetings, stakeholder working groups, public review of Statewide trails planning documents and a LOSRA-specific draft General Plan, and a Trails Focus Group convened during Relicensing Settlement negotiations. A Non-Motorized Trails Management Program (Appendix D) describes and illustrates existing Project No. 2100 trail segments, their current and proposed future use designations, and proposed new trail alignments and use designations. The proposed trails plan is a collaboratively developed comprehensive non-motorized trails plan that offers a broad range of trail recreation opportunities to the greatest number of potential trail users. In addition and to promote the safe use and management of trails, an annual, or less frequently depending on need, safety event open to all trail users will be conducted.

The trail system in the study area provides many miles of trails for a variety of uses including mountain biking, horseback riding, and hiking (pers. comm., McBride 2003). Several trails have been upgraded to meet ADA accessibility standards for slope and surface. There are a total of 12 miles of ADA accessible trails within the study area. Table 6.5-1 lists each of the trailhead access sites and the trails, providing miles of trail, allowable uses, number of parking spaces, number of restrooms, and garbage receptacles. Appendices C and D and Figure 1.0-2 provide maps of trails that are discussed (excluding the Feather Falls Trail).

The nearby Plumas National Forest (and portions of Lassen National Forest) provides many opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian uses. Because the National Forest boundary is generally adjacent to steep and remote reaches of the Project No. 2100 boundary, most of the aforementioned opportunities are many miles distant from Project trails and facilities. However, the Feather Falls Trail, though outside of the study area, at times can be accessed from the reservoir and is informally associated with recreation in the project area. The Pacific Crest Trail (also not in the project area) crosses the upstream Middle Fork Feather River approximately 25 miles northeast of Lake Oroville.

Table 6.5-1. Trailhead access facilities and trails.

Trail Facility	Use		Access	Health & Safety	
	Miles of Trail	Allowable Uses	Vehicle and Vehicle/Trailer Parking Spaces	Toilets	Trash Receptacles
Trailhead Access Sites					
East Hamilton Rd Trailhead Access	-	-	Approx 5 veh.	0	0
Toland Road Trailhead Access	-	-	Undesignated; ~ 10 vehicles	0	0
Tres Vias Rd Trailhead Access	-	-	Undesignated; ~ 10 vehicles	0	0
Lakeland Blvd Trailhead Access	-	-	Undesignated; ~30 vehicles, ~10 veh./trailers	0	0
Saddle Dam Trailhead Access	-	-	Undesignated; ~40 vehicles, ~15 veh./trailers	1	1
Trails					
Bidwell Canyon Trail	4.9	Bicycles, Hiking	477[1]	2[1]	3[1]
Brad Freeman Trail	41.0	Bicycles, Hiking[2]	Various	-	-
Chaparral Interpretive Trail	0.2	Pedestrian	107[3]	2[3]	6[3]
Dan Beebe Trail	14.3	Equestrian, Hiking	Various	-	-
Feather Falls Trail[4]	4.5	Multiple-use	Approx. 50	1	1
Loafer Creek Day Use/Campground Trail	1.7	Hiking Only	251[5]	2[5]	2[5]
Loafer Creek Loop Trail	3.2	Equestrian, Hiking[6]	251[7]	1[7]	11[7]
Sewim Bo Trail	0.5	Multiple-use[9]	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
OWA Trails	Unknown	Multiple-use	Various	Unknown	Unknown
Potter's Ravine Trail	5.5	Multiple-use[10]	468[8]	2[8]	1[8]
Roy Rogers Trail	4.0	Equestrian, Hiking[6]	251[5]	2[5]	2[5]
Wyk Island Trail	0.2	Hiking Only	477[1]	4[1]	3[1]

[1] In the Bidwell Canyon area.
[2] Horses currently allowed on some segments, proposed for others.
[3] At the Lake Oroville Visitors Center.
[4] Not within the Project 2100 boundary.
[5] In the Loafer Creek Day Use Area.
[6] Portions proposed to be multiple use.
[7] In the northern Loafer Creek area.
[8] At the Spillway area (upper parking area).
[9] Originally designed as a hiking trail, it is not officially closed to any type of use.
[10] An ADA accessible portion near the Spillway parking lot is closed to horses and bicycles.
Note: The dash indicates that there is no facility or that the category does not apply.
Source: pers. comm., McBride 2003. Updated by EDAW 2004.

DPR has conducted extensive trails planning in the State over the last 70 years. DPR houses a Statewide Trails Office that implements the mission and goals created by DPR for trails in the State. DWR and DPR share the management responsibility for trails within the LOSRA.

Facilities at most of the trailheads typically consist of roadside or designated gravel parking, some locations with portable toilets or vault toilet buildings, and the trails themselves.

Trailheads discussed in this section include:

- East Hamilton Road Trailhead Access (TA)
- Toland Road TA
- Tres Vias Road TA
- Lakeland Boulevard TA
- Saddle Dam TA

In addition, trails discussed in this section include:

- Bidwell Canyon Trail
- Brad B. Freeman Trail
- Chaparral Interpretive Trail
- Dan Beebe Trail
- Feather Falls Trail
- Loafer Creek Day Use/Campground Trail
- Loafer Creek Loop Trail
- Sewim Bo Trail
- OWA Trails
- Potter's Ravine Trail
- Roy Rogers Trail
- Wyk Island Trail

6.5.1 East Hamilton Road Trailhead Access

Existing Resources: East Hamilton Road TA connects to the Brad Freeman Trail. There is a picnic table and a small gravel parking area that fits approximately 5 vehicles (Table 6.5-1).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility.

6.5.2 Toland Road Trailhead Access

Existing Resources: The Brad Freeman Trail can be accessed from the Toland Road TA at the northwest corner of the Afterbay. This trailhead is gated with roadside parking only. There are no developed facilities at this site (Table 6.5-1).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility.

6.5.3 Tres Vias Trailhead Access

Existing Resources: The Tres Vias Road TA connects to the Brad Freeman Trail about 1.5 miles directly to the east of the Toland Road TA north of the Thermalito Afterbay. This access area consists of a dirt lot and dirt road/trail at the Thermalito Afterbay. There are no developed facilities at this site (Table 6.5-1).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility.

6.5.4 Lakeland Boulevard Trailhead Access

Existing Resources: The Lakeland Boulevard TA is located east of the Diversion Pool, near the Diversion Dam and upstream from the Low Flow Channel of the Feather River. The site is unpaved and provides parking and hitching posts used by equestrians (Table 6.5-1). There is no developed shoreline access at the site. The gate to the site is locked from sunset to dawn. A Union Pacific Railroad line is adjacent to this trailhead access area. Signs advise visitors not to trespass on the tracks.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: DWR proposes to create vehicle access and enhanced trailhead and day use access to the Diversion Pool (new south side DUA) as previously described (Section 6.3.5). The existing trailhead parking will be retained at the Lakeland Boulevard TA. The trails in this vicinity will be designated multiple use, with the exception of the Sycamore Hill segment of the Dan Beebe Trail.

DWR will evaluate the feasibility of Diversion Pool trail crossing(s) to complete a loop trail of the Diversion Pool (Section 6.3.5) that could be accessed from the Lakeland Boulevard TA. At least four options for one bridge crossing of the Diversion Pool/Feather River in this area will be evaluated by DWR.

A non-potable stock-watering trough and hand-washing sink will be provided at the existing Lakeland Boulevard TA gravel parking area. It has not been determined if water for the trough will be supplied by underground utility service (plumbing), or be periodically refilled by portable supply (trucked). If the former option is employed, an outdoor hand-washing basin with a "French drain" will also be installed.

DWR will also evaluate the feasibility of a new demonstration mountain bicycle trail originating from this location. If feasible, based on reconciliation of topography and property ownership issues, a two- to four-mile trail will be constructed and will connect with the Dan Beebe Trail at a westward point (Appendix D, Figure D-1). Upon completion of this bicycle trail, the “parallel” portion of the Dan Beebe Trail will be closed to bicycle use.

6.5.5 Saddle Dam Trailhead Access

Existing Resources: The Saddle Dam TA provides access to the southern termini of the Dan Beebe and Bidwell Canyon Trails, as well as to trails leading to the Loafer Creek area. Located on the southeast side of Kelly Ridge, the Saddle Dam TA consists of a recently regraded and regraveled parking area able to accommodate approximately 10 to 15 vehicle/trailer combinations (Table 6.5-1). This site provides a convenient location to off-load horses, to access the nearby equestrian trail, and to access the reservoir shoreline during high water. Also recently added (as Interim Projects) at the site are trash receptacles, vault toilet building, and hitching posts; shade trees are planned in the near future.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee will install a non-potable stock water trough, hand-washing sink, hitching posts for horses, and native shade trees at the Saddle Dam equestrian area. It has not been determined if water for the trough will be supplied by an extension of underground utility service (plumbing), or be periodically refilled by portable supply (trucked). If the former option is employed, an outdoor hand-washing basin with a "French drain" will also be installed. The licensee will also designate additional access trails from the trailhead/parking area to the Lake Oroville shoreline.

The licensee will designate one or two additional access trails from the trailhead/parking area to the Lake Oroville shoreline. The Dan Beebe Trail will be opened to bicycle use, and the Bidwell Canyon Trail will be opened to equestrian use, to allow all users the opportunity to complete a loop-ride without the need for backtracking. Additional security will be provided at the trailhead location; frequency of patrols will be based upon observed and reported incidence of theft and vandalism.

6.5.6 Bidwell Canyon Trail

Existing Resources: The 4.9-mile Bidwell Canyon Trail can be accessed from the Saddle Dam TA or the Bidwell Canyon BR parking area. The latter has 279 vehicle/trailer parking spaces (Table 6.5-1). The Bidwell Canyon Trail has portions that meet ADA accessibility requirements and is designated for hiking and bicycling. The trail is considered to be in a foothill setting and provides a rural experience.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Trail use designations will be revised (Appendix D) to allow equestrian use (Section 6.5.5). Relocation of a portion of the existing Bidwell Campground to provide additional boat ramp/marina parking in the Bidwell

Canyon area will necessitate the relocation of a segment of this trail. During detailed site design of the new campground loop, this trail will be relocated nearby with appropriate vegetative buffer and/or fencing provided where possible, subject to topographic and other site limitations.

6.5.7 Brad Freeman Trail

Existing Resources: The Brad Freeman Trail provides a 41-mile loop of scenic off-road recreation, originally constructed primarily for all-terrain bikes (Table 6.5-1). The trail follows shoreline portions of the Thermalito Forebay, Thermalito Afterbay, and the Diversion Pool, and crosses the OWA, as well as the crest of Oroville Dam. About 30 miles of trail are flat but include some rolling terrain. Steep grades can be found on either side of the dam, within one mile of Lake Oroville. Although some of the trail is designated multiple use, no horses are allowed on several segments; thus, the utility of the trail to provide a "loop" is only consistent with hiking and bicycle use.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Trail use designations will be revised within specific trail segments (Appendix D) to allow equestrian use. The licensee will also realign a section of the Brad Freeman Trail (see Appendix D) to eliminate security concerns posed by the current alignment in the vicinity of the Hyatt Powerplant Switchyard. The new alignment will follow a segment of the old railroad grade and a service road and will cross below the switchyard instead of overlooking it (Appendix D, Figure D-1).

The portions of the Brad Freeman Trail in the vicinity of the Diversion Pool and Thermalito Forebay will be opened to equestrian use. Thus, the trail will function as a loop for all users.

6.5.8 Chaparral Interpretive Trail

Existing Resources: The Chaparral Interpretive Trail can be accessed from the Lake Oroville Visitors Center. A portion (0.2 mile) of the Chaparral Interpretive Trail was made ADA accessible in 2004. Part of the trail is paved and the remainder has been compacted; there is interpretive signage. The Visitors Center has 107 parking spaces, flush restrooms, and trash receptacles (Table 6.5-1).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility.

6.5.9 Dan Beebe Trail

Existing Resources: The Dan Beebe Trail is a 14.3-mile trail that rises from an elevation of 200 to 1,000 feet msl (Table 6.5-1). The trail can be accessed at Saddle Dam TA, Lake Oroville Visitors Center, below Oroville Dam off of Oro Dam Boulevard, or from the Lakeland Boulevard TA. Most of the trail is currently closed to bicyclists.

Much of the trail winds above the reservoir and provides scenic vistas and an opportunity to access undeveloped areas. The vast majority of the trail is not paved.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Most of the Dan Beebe Trail is proposed to be opened to bicycle use, with the exception of a steep segment over Sycamore Hill.

6.5.10 Feather Falls Trail

Existing Resources: Feather Falls is located on the Fall River, which flows into the Middle Fork Feather River less than one mile from the northeast corner of Lake Oroville. Feather Falls is the nation's sixth highest waterfall at 640 feet. The Feather Falls Trail is located outside of the Project 2100 Boundary, within the Feather Falls Scenic Area in the Plumas National Forest. Virtually all of this trail is located outside the existing Project No. 2100 Boundary. The trailhead, providing restrooms, camping, and parking, is a 35-mile drive from the City of Oroville. The multiple-use trail is 4.5 miles long, requiring a round trip of 9 miles for visitors who go to Feather Falls and back.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The Feather Falls Trail is adjacent to, but outside of, the Project No. 2100 boundary. This popular regional trail would be included in future interpretive materials prepared for the project area; however, no other changes are proposed by the licensee at this non-project facility. DWR will coordinate with the USFS regarding management issues.

6.5.11 Loafer Creek Day Use/Campground Trail

Existing Resources: The Loafer Creek Day Use/Campground Trail is 1.7 miles in length. The first 1.23 miles of the Loafer Creek Day Use/Campground Trail (managed by DPR) meets ADA accessibility requirements (Table 6.5-1). The use designation on this trail is hiking-only. The trail is in a foothill setting and provides a rural experience. The Loafer Creek DUA provides parking for 251 vehicles. There are restrooms and trash receptacles at the DUA, campground, and boat ramp.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility.

6.5.12 Loafer Creek Loop Trail

Existing Resources: The Loafer Creek Loop Trail is a 3.2-mile trail, limited to horseback riding and hiking. The first 0.23 mile of the Loafer Creek Loop Trail meets ADA accessibility requirements (Table 6.5-1). The trail is in a foothill setting and provides a rural experience. The Loafer Creek DUA provides parking for 251 vehicles; however, many trail users access the trail from the Loafer Creek Campground. There are flush restrooms and trash receptacles at the Loafer Creek DUA.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Most of the Loafer Creek Loop Trail is proposed to be opened to bicycles and designated for multiple use. An exception to the multiple-

use designation will be a segment in the vicinity of the Loafer Creek Equestrian Campground, which will remain closed to bicycles. To provide bicyclists with access from the Loafer Creek Campground to the Saddle Dam area, where the Bidwell Canyon trail begins, the licensee proposes that an existing service road be opened to bicycles. The latter segment can be otherwise described as extending from just east and south of the Loafer Creek Equestrian Campground (junction with Roy Rogers Trail), south to the Saddle Dam Trailhead (Appendix D, Figure D-1).

Near the Loafer Creek BR/DUA, a new single-vault toilet building will be constructed at Brooks Orchard to replace a vandalized portable toilet.

6.5.13 Sewim Bo Trail

Existing Resources: The Sewim Bo Trail is generally a hiking trail, but it receives some equestrian and bicycle use (no specific use restriction is currently imposed) in the vicinity of the Feather River Nature Center on the opposite side (eastern bank) of the Feather River from the Feather River Fish Hatchery and extending upstream past the Thermalito Diversion Dam. Much of this trail is located outside the existing Project No. 2100 boundary. The trail was created in conjunction with the Feather River Nature Center as an Interim Project in 2003-2004. The trail leads to a day use area adjacent to the Feather River Nature Center that has been improved with picnic tables, shade ramadas, and interpretive signs, as well as erosion control measures for the trail itself. One picnic site is ADA accessible with parking and access route.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this trail facility.

Nearby, however, if another recreation agency provides a paved trail along the northern shoreline of the Feather River from the Riverbend Park area north to the project boundary (using SBF or other local funding), DWR will complete this trail connection by constructing a paved trail from the Feather River Fish Hatchery parking/viewing area downstream to the project boundary.

6.5.14 Oroville Wildlife Area Trails

Existing Resources: The OWA provides many trails for hiking and bicycle use. The Brad Freeman Trail (see Section 6.5.7) crosses the OWA, following existing gravel levee-top roads that connect the Afterbay outlet with the OWA Headquarters entrance. The other trails within the OWA are not officially designated and none are ADA accessible. The Feather River runs through the center of the OWA and has several channels. The OWA outside the Afterbay is used as a floodplain for emergency releases from Oroville Dam. There are three main unpaved boat launching sites, one at One Mile Pond, and two along the main roads where people can access the river. Parking is undesignated. There are three vault toilet buildings within the OWA at various locations (Table 6.5-1).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: No changes are proposed to trails in this project management unit.

6.5.15 Potter's Ravine Trail

Existing Resources: The Potter's Ravine Trail is predominantly designated for multiple-use and is about 5.5 miles long. Beyond the Potter's Ravine area, the trail continues as the North Fork Trail. These trails are most readily accessed from the Spillway DUA, located on the north side of Oroville Dam. A segment near to the DUA is for pedestrian use only and is ADA accessible. The Spillway DUA has restrooms and 468 parking spaces (Table 6.5-1).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: The licensee proposes to construct an extension of the North Fork Trail, totaling an additional two miles and providing users access to additional, remote portions of the Lake Oroville shoreline.

6.5.16 Roy Rogers Trail

Existing Resources: The four-mile Roy Rogers Trail can be accessed from the Loafer Creek Complex including the campground, equestrian camp, boat ramp, and DUA. The trail is designated for hiking and equestrian use only and is not ADA accessible. The Loafer Creek DUA provides parking for 251 vehicles; however, many trail users access the trail from the Loafer Creek Campground. There are restrooms and trash receptacles at the DUA, campground, and boat ramp (Table 6.5-1).

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: To provide bicyclists with access from the Loafer Creek Campground to the Saddle Dam area, where the Bidwell Canyon Trail begins, the licensee proposes that the westernmost segment of the Roy Rogers Trail be designated multiple use (Appendix D, Figure D-1). The latter segment can be otherwise described as extending from the Loafer Creek Complex's Coyote Campground to the Loafer Creek Boat Ramp, and south to just north of the Loafer Creek Equestrian Camp (junction with the Loafer Creek Loop Trail). A graded dirt access and service road, which runs from near the Loafer Creek Equestrian Camp to near the Saddle Dam Trailhead, will be designated as a bicycle trail.

A new single-vault toilet building near the Loafer Creek Complex will be constructed at Brooks Orchard, to replace a vandalized portable toilet.

6.5.17 Wyk Island Trail

Existing Resources: The Wyk Island Trail can be accessed from the Bidwell Canyon BR parking. The 0.19 mile of trail meets ADA accessibility requirements (Table 6.5-1). The use designation on this trail is hiking-only. The trail is in a foothill setting and provides a nature-oriented experience. There are 279 vehicle/trailer parking spaces, restrooms, and trash receptacles at the Bidwell Canyon BR.

Proposed Actions and Enhancements: Apart from periodic updates of the interpretive materials, no changes are proposed at this facility.

Picnic Site at the South Thermalito Forebay Day Use Area.