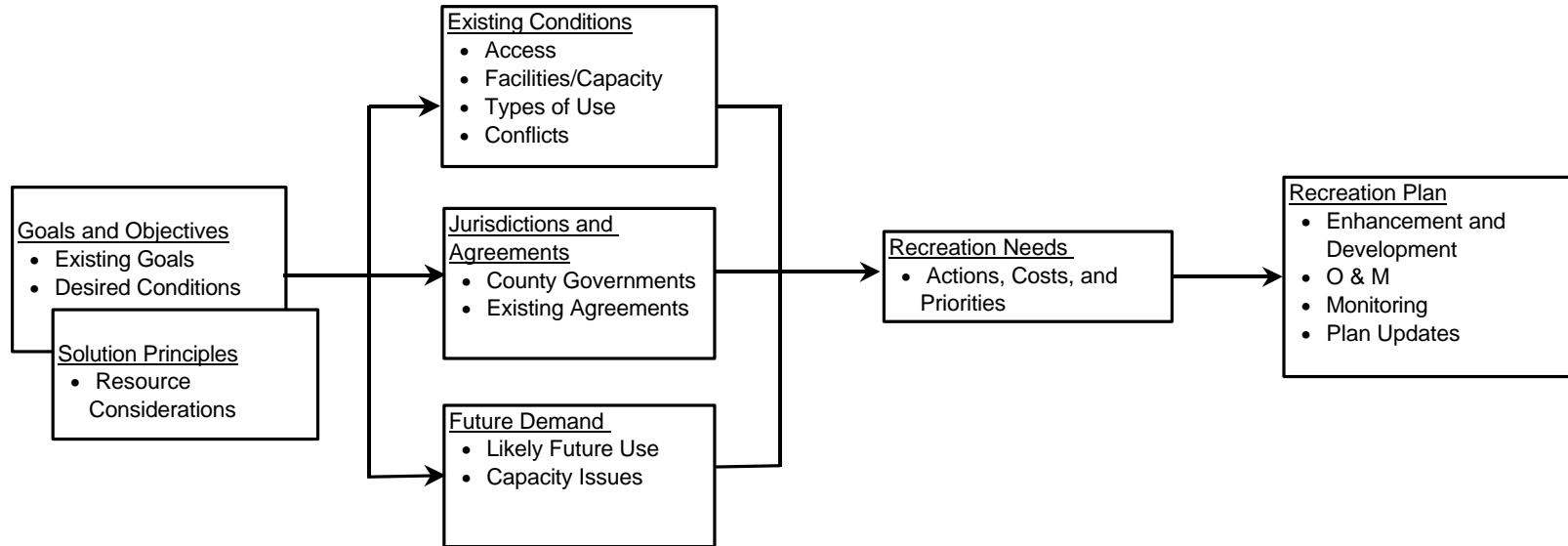


Recreation Plan Development Standard Process



Step 1
Determine
Desired Future
Condition

Step 2
Establish
Baseline
Conditions

Step 3
Determine What
Is Needed
And When

Step 4
Decide How Needs
Will Be Met And
Who is Responsible

Recreation Issues R1, R3, R4, and R5 Standard Process

The following is a list of standard questions designed to help characterize existing recreation resources and aid in development of appropriate recreation plans for the Coosa and Warrior River Projects. Questions pertaining to recreation management (R1) are categorized according to the four-step recreation planning process developed for the projects (see CR1 IAG process diagram). Questions pertaining to reservoir levels (R3), downstream flows (R4) and flood control (R5) are listed following the R1 material. Questions should be applied to each reservoir in the Project individually with appropriate considerations given to the system as a whole. In some cases, certain questions or issue areas may not apply to certain reservoirs. For example, issues of downstream flows for recreation may only pertain to Jordan and Weiss.

STEP 1 – DETERMINE DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

- 1. Identify impoundment and/or downstream tailrace qualities important to keep and any qualities that need changes.**
- 2. Are there unique characteristics of the reservoir and/or tailrace relative to other reservoirs/tailraces on the river?**
- 3. What is the overall vision for the reservoir and/or tailrace, in terms of recreation experiences and opportunities, and how does that vision compare with the vision for other reservoirs/tailraces in the Project?**
- 4. Are there sensitive biological or cultural resources associated with the Project that need to be considered? Where are these resources located and are there seasonal sensitivities (e.g. nesting or spawning times, etc)?**
- 5. Identify specific goals and objectives for managing recreation at the reservoir and/or in the tailrace.**

STEP 2 – ESTABLISH BASELINE CONDITIONS

- 6. What is the nature of existing recreational access to the reservoir?**
 - a. How many public accessible, developed recreation sites are there?
 - b. Where are they located/how are they distributed around reservoir?
 - c. Of these publicly accessible access sites how many are owned and operated by public versus private entities and how are they supervised?
 - d. How many sites, open to the public, provide boat access to the reservoir?
 - e. How many provide shoreline fishing?
 - f. Identify the most heavily used facilities.
 - g. Are there informal, undeveloped use areas? Where are they?
- 7. What types of existing developed facilities are there?**
 - a. Enumerate boat ramps, restrooms, docks, and other facilities
 - b. What is the existing capacity at each site?
 - c. What is the general condition of each site and its facilities?

d. Ideas for improving existing facilities.

8. Describe notable recreation activities on the reservoir.

- a. List recreation activities currently occurring and identify most prominent activities.
- b. Where are these uses occurring, and are they concentrated in certain areas?
- c. Identify existing impediments to these activities, if any.

9. Are there known management issues associated with use ?

- a. Are there areas of congestion, and if so where?
- b. Are there known conflicts between users, and if so where and when?
- c. Are there other known management issues, such as littering, trespassing, etc?

10. What is the expected future demand for recreation activities at the reservoir?

- a. Will existing facility capacity likely be exceeded, and if so where and when?
- b. Would accommodating this demand be consistent with the long-term vision for the reservoir?
- c. Will demand introduce new or additional congestion, conflicts, or other management issues?

11. Identify current local benefits from recreation and any local detriments.

12. Identify information on specific public safety issues.

13. Identify specific shoreline problems.

14. Are there existing public lands immediately adjacent to the project (within 200 feet of the FERC boundary) that offer, or might offer, recreation opportunities?

STEP 3 – DETERMINE WHAT IS NEEDED AND WHEN

15. Ideas for better or different access, consistent with Step 2 above.

16. Potential facility enhancements or upgrades, consistent with Step 2 above.

17. Potential new facilities, or other management actions, consistent with Step 2 above.

18. Are items #15, 16, and 17 above consistent with agreed upon Solution Principles?

**19. What are the priorities regarding identified needs both in terms of resources and time?
How do priorities compare across the entire Project?**

STEP 4 – DECIDE HOW NEEDS WILL BE MET AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

QUESTIONS REGARDING RESERVOIR LEVELS (R3)

20. How is the reservoir currently operated and what are the typical reservoir levels during key recreation seasons?
21. Are there changes to reservoir level operations that you would like to see addressed to improve the overall value of the reservoir, and how specifically would such changes benefit recreation?
22. Are there seasonal and/or daily variations in reservoir level that can occur without adversely impacting the overall value of the project (including impoundment objectives such as recreation, fish and wildlife, flood control, generation, navigation, etc)?
23. What are the reservoir levels at which recreation problems tend to occur (may be different for different locations or problems)?
24. When (i.e. what time of year) and how frequently do problems occur related to reservoir levels?
25. Why are the current operating water levels important to the operation of the project and the overall system?
26. Are there state or federal operating requirements that stipulate specific operating goals?

QUESTIONS REGARDING DOWNSTREAM FLOWS (R4)

27. Are there riverine recreation opportunities below the dam? If yes, move to additional questions, if not, stop.
28. Do we know how different flow levels affect recreation opportunities and specific recreation activities?
29. Can opportunities be enhanced by modifying releases, and in what way?
30. How would modified releases affect upstream lake levels?
31. How would suggested modified downstream flows affect project operations at the project and at upstream and downstream projects?
32. Are there additional concerns with regard to state and federal requirements or existing ecological issues that limit suggested changes to downstream flows.

QUESTIONS REGARDING FLOOD CONTROL (R5)

33. Do current flood control operations have an impact on recreation, if so in what way and when?
34. How might modified operations to enhance recreation (either changing lake levels or releases) affect flood control capabilities and other resource values?

**Coosa/Warrior Project
Recreation Solution Principles**

- 1. Consideration of new recreational facilities should be based on demonstrated need and the potential impact on existing facilities.**
- 2. Priority should be given to demonstrated need within the project boundary.**
- 3. Priority should be given to recreational proposals where multiple stakeholders offer significant participation.**
- 4. Recreational facilities should appeal to a broad public.**
- 5. Reasonable access for the disabled should be provided.**
- 6. Recreational needs should be prioritized for the project.**
- 7. The improvement or expansion of existing recreational facilities should be considered first.**
- 8. Additional recreational studies (if needed) should be only of sufficient scope and duration to provide necessary information to develop issue solutions.**
- 9. Consensus based solutions are preferred over studies, unless solutions cannot be developed with existing information.**