

CR1 - Issue Action Group

Recreation Management (Access, Facilities, Use)

Coosa River – Mitchell Project

RecRAT September 2001 - Update

The CR1 IAG Work Plan is available on the APC Hydro Relicensing Website:

<http://www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro/>

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Issue Statement

CR1 Recreation Management (Access, Facilities, and Use) – Ability of project lands and waters (including existing recreation facilities and access) to accommodate current and future recreation demand while protecting public safety and the environment.

IAG Tasks and Responsibilities

The CR1 IAG is charged with developing a draft process for evaluating and addressing recreation management and access issues at the Coosa River Project using the Mitchell development as a case study example.

Work Scope & Product

- **Task 1** Develop a list of standard questions that should be asked for each reservoir to characterize the existing and potential future conditions – from a recreation setting perspective.
- **Task 2** Identify solution principles that can serve to guide the planning process.
- **Task 3** Develop stepwise process diagram for addressing recreation management issues, based on items 1 and 2 above.
- **Task 4** Apply the above items to Mitchell Lake as a test case for identifying recreation needs and appropriate recreation actions.

Schedule

The CR1 – IAG will meet periodically between August and November 2001 (7 meetings anticipated). The following is a “projected” schedule of work that may change with the Group’s approval.

Meeting 1	Kick-off meeting – Discuss Work plan – July 26, 2001
Meeting 2	Discuss Tasks 1, 2 & 3 – August 9, 2001
Meeting 3	Discuss results of Tasks 1, 2 & 3 and discuss Task 4 – August 22, 2001
Meeting 4	Give preliminary update at September 11, 2001 RecRAT meetings

Proposed Methodology

The following information outlines the proposed methodology to address the CR1 Issue (Recreation Management) for the Coosa Basins.

This review is designed to:

- Develop a list of standard questions.
- Identify solution principles.
- Develop a process diagram.
- Apply the items to Mitchell Lake.

Progress To Date

As of September 6th, this IAG has completed drafts of Tasks 1, 2 and 3 of its work plan and begun the process of using Mitchell Lake as a test case. The attached documents provide the results of the IAG’s work to date for review by the rest of the Coosa RecRAT. This IAG has also completed Steps 1 and 2 of the process questions.

Recommendation

The CR1 IAG recommends that the standard process and solution principles presented in the attached materials be adopted by the RecRAT and used for the development of recreation plans for all the reservoirs on the Coosa River.

CR1 IAG
Task 1 – Standard Process

The following is a draft list of standard questions designed to help characterize existing recreation resources and aid in development of an appropriate recreation plan for the Coosa River Project. Questions are categorized according to the four-step recreation planning process developed for the project (see CR1 IAG Task 3 process diagram). Questions should be applied to each reservoir in the Project individually with appropriate considerations given to the system as a whole.

STEP 1 – DETERMINE DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

- 1. Identify impoundment qualities important to keep and any qualities that need changes.**
- 2. Are there unique characteristics of the reservoir relative to other reservoirs on the river?**
- 3. Is there an overall vision for the reservoir, in terms of recreation experiences and opportunities, and how does that vision compare with the vision for other reservoirs 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.**

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. What are the most prominent recreation activities on the reservoir?**
 - a. Are there known, existing impediments to prominent recreational activities use of the reservoir?
- 9. Are there known management issues associated with use (i.e. litter, trespassing, etc)?**
 - a. Are there areas of congestion? Where are they?
 - b. Are there known conflicts between users? Where and when?
- 10. What is the expected future demand for different recreation activities at the reservoir?**
 - a. Will existing facility capacity likely be exceeded? Where and when?
- 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

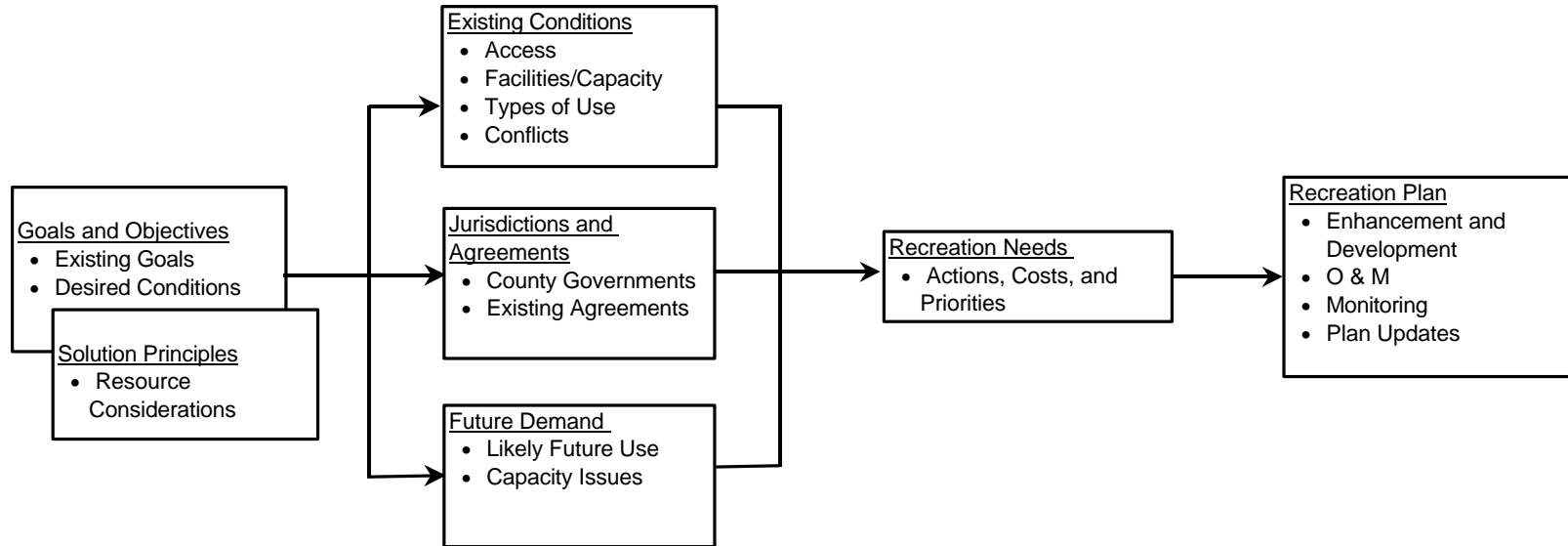
- 15. Ideas for better or different access, consistent with Step 2 above.**
- 16. Potential facility enhancements or upgrades, consistent with Step 2 above.**
- 17. Potential new facilities, or other management actions, consistent with Step 2 above.**
- 18. Are items #15, 16, and 17 above consistent with agreed upon Solution Principals?**
- 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

Task 2 – Solution Principals

- 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 Coosa 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.**

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