

Coosa River Project

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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.

**CR 3 Lake Levels Fluctuations** - Effects of project operations and lake level fluctuations on lake oriented and tailwater recreation access and use.

**CR4 Downstream Flows** – Impact of downstream releases on tailwater and lake oriented recreation opportunities.

**CR5 Flood Control** – Impact of potential operational changes for recreation or other resource protection on downstream flood protection and the potential impact of flood control measures on recreation.

**IAG Tasks and Responsibilities**

This CR1 - IAG is charged with:

- Developing a draft process for evaluating and addressing recreation management and access issues at the Coosa River Projects using the Mitchell development as a case study example.
- Utilizing the process developed for evaluating and addressing recreation management and access issues specific to the Mitchell development, including developing a vision statement for Mitchell.
- Identifying specific areas where lake level fluctuations may be adversely affecting recreation at the lake, including the nature and timing of the affect (e.g., access to sections of water, access to facilities and aesthetics).

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- Working with the APC Project Operations Group to identify “reasonable” (based on hydrologic, structural, and other limitations identified) changes and alternatives for modifying project operations, including flood control constraints and operations that would benefit recreation
- Identifying any studies, if applicable, that need to be performed for identifying and/or evaluating changes to Project operations
- Presenting a range of reasonable alternatives or recommendations to the RecRAT regarding modifications to current Project operations and provide recommendations for recreation access, facilities, and use.

### **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 condition – from a recreation setting perspective.
- Task 2 – Identify solution principles that can serve to guide the planning process.
- Task 3 - Utilize the stepwise process diagram and solution principles to guide the planning process for addressing recreation management issues at the Mitchell development.
- Task 4 - Develop a Vision Statement for the Mitchell development.
- Task 5 – Review the operational constraints and current operations of the Mitchell development (see Initial Information Packages IIPs).
- Task 6 - Answer the list of standard questions for CR1, CR3, CR4 & CR5 in order to characterize the existing and potential future condition, lake level fluctuations, and downstream flows – from a recreation setting perspective.
- Task 7 – Review stakeholder requests (e.g., agency letters) for particular studies and/or enhancement measures to ensure that these are incorporated into study planning, if applicable
- Task 8 - Develop and recommend operation scenarios to the Project Operations Group for analysis. These scenarios should reflect initial thinking on potential solutions and be designed to narrow the focus of Task 12 below. Analysis by the Project Operations Group will focus on an assessment of potential impacts associated with any suggested changes to operations.
- Task 9 - Discuss results of the Project Operations Group analyses.
- Task 10 - Report back and make recommendations to the RecRAT regarding Tasks 1 through Task 9.
- Task 11 - Meet with the E8 and E10 group to discuss potential studies.
- Task 12 – Develop study designs/methods/plans and review agreed upon studies, literature reviews, etc.
- Task 13 – Check the solution principles to ensure proposed study plans are consistent.
- Task 14 – Provide recommendations for Project operations (lake, downstream and flood) and recreation access, facilities, and use that address the Mitchell development to the RecRAT to be considered in conjunction with all ecological and recreational issues.

### **Schedule**

This IAG is anticipated to begin work with a kick-off conference call in late July followed by an in-person meeting in August. The Group will meet via conference call and face-to-face as necessary. The work products listed above should be completed by mid-2002 in order to take advantage of any field work that is determined to be needed to address the tasks above.