

REVISED REC-1 RECREATION USE ASSESSMENT TECHNICAL STUDY PLAN

LEE VINING HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
FERC PROJECT No. 1388



April 2023

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1.0 POTENTIAL RESOURCE ISSUE

This study would characterize existing recreation use and access associated with Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project (Project) resources and assess future recreation needs associated with the Project. SCE has been in consultation with Stakeholders in development of the Lee Vining Recreation and Land Use studies. Following multiple meetings and comments from stakeholders, SCE has revised this Study Plan for implementation during the 2023 field season.

2.0 PROJECT NEXUS AND HOW THE RESULTS WILL BE USED

Under Title 18 Code of Federal Regulations Section 2.7, licensees whose projects include land and water resources with outdoor recreational potential have a responsibility to develop those resources in accordance with area needs. Existing Project facilities and operations have the potential to promote incremental use of the Project Area for recreation purposes.

All recreation facilities in the upper Lee Vining Canyon are currently owned and operated by the Inyo National Forest (INF). While many of these sites are either partially within or directly adjacent to the existing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project Boundary, there are no recreation facilities in the existing Lee Vining FERC license. INF has Federal Power Act Section 4(e) conditioning authority to prescribe conditions that may mitigate the impact of hydropower projects on INF system lands and thus could require mitigation for recreation induced by the presence of the Project. The initial phase (first study season) of the REC-1 study evaluated which INF recreation facilities or activities have a potential connection to the Project and thus would warrant inclusion in the broader studies proposed in the second study season (2023).

3.0 STUDY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Determine which INF recreation facilities or activities have a potential connection to the Project and thus would warrant inclusion in the broader studies proposed in the second study season.
- For the study sites and activities identified:
 - Characterize existing recreation opportunities and visitation.
 - Characterize existing recreation visitor characteristics, needs, and preferences.
 - Estimate current recreational fishing effort in Project creeks and reservoirs.
 - Estimate future recreational demand and needs, including the need for additional recreation facility and access enhancements or enforcement actions.

- Assess consistency of current recreation opportunities with the Desired Conditions, Goals, Standards, and Guidelines described in the *Land Management Plan for the Inyo National Forest* (USFS, 2019).

4.0 EXTENT OF STUDY AREA AND STUDY SITES

The recreation use assessment study area and specific study sites based on activity are listed in Table 4-1 and shown on Figure 4-1 below.

Table 4-1. Study Sites

Site ID	Site Name	User Surveys (2022)	User Surveys (2023)	Creel Surveys	Spot Counts	Counters
1	Saddlebag Lake Campground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Saddlebag Lake DUA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Saddlebag Lake Trailhead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Sawmill Walk-In Campground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
5	Carnegie Station Trailhead ^a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No	No	No
6	Gardisky Lake Trailhead ^a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No	No	No
7	Junction Campground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
8	Bennettville Trailhead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
9	Tioga Lake Overlook Info Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ^b	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
10	Glacier Canyon Trailhead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ^b	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
11	Nunatak-Tioga Tarns Trailhead ^a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No	No	No
12	Tioga Lake Campground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
13	Nunatak Nature Trail ^a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No	No	No
14	Ellery Lake Campground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
15	Warren Fork Trailhead ^a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No	No	No
16	Big Bend Campground ^a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No	No	No
17	Aspen Grove Campground ^a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No	No	No

Site ID	Site Name	User Surveys (2022)	User Surveys (2023)	Creel Surveys	Spot Counts	Counters
18	Boulder Day Use Area ^a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No	No	No
19	Moraine Campground ^a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No	No	No
20	Lower Lee Vining Campground ^a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No	No	No
21	Cattleguard Campground ^c	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No	No	No
22	Informal Fishing Access Turnout along Saddlebag Lake Rd ^d	No	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	No

DUA = Day Use Area

^a These sites did not meet the 55 percent potential Project nexus threshold criteria to be considered for further study.

^b Data for the Tioga Lake Overlook Site and Glacier Canyon Trailhead did not meet the 55 percent potential Project nexus threshold criteria; however, SCE committed to moving these sites forward to the 2023 study season in the original Study Plan.

^c Cattleguard Campground consists of an administrative building and is not open to public use.

^d CDFW requested that creel surveys be conducted at this informal site. Flyers will be placed at the site requesting users to fill out a survey online, no in person surveys will be conducted.

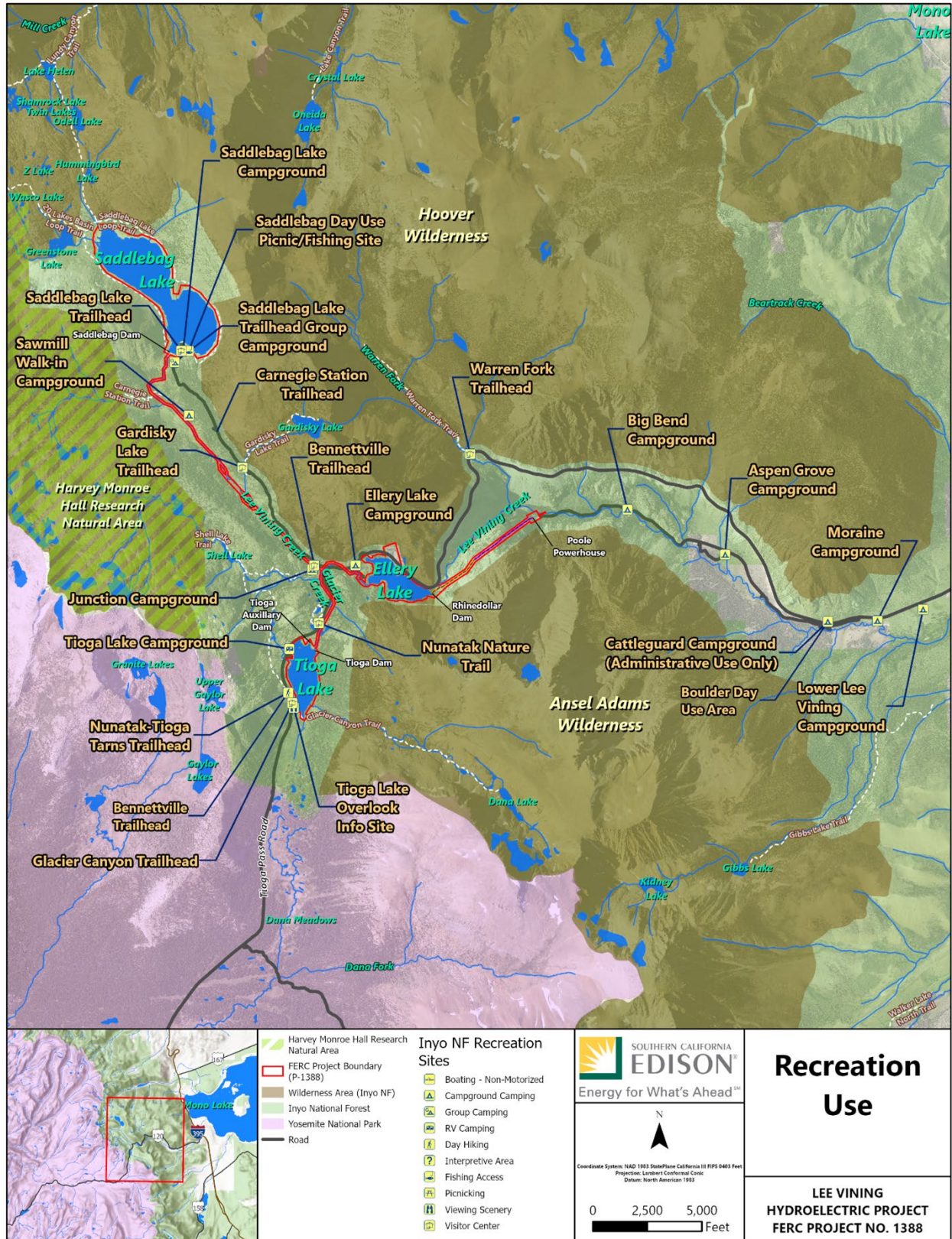


Figure 4-1. 2022 Survey and Data Collection Sites

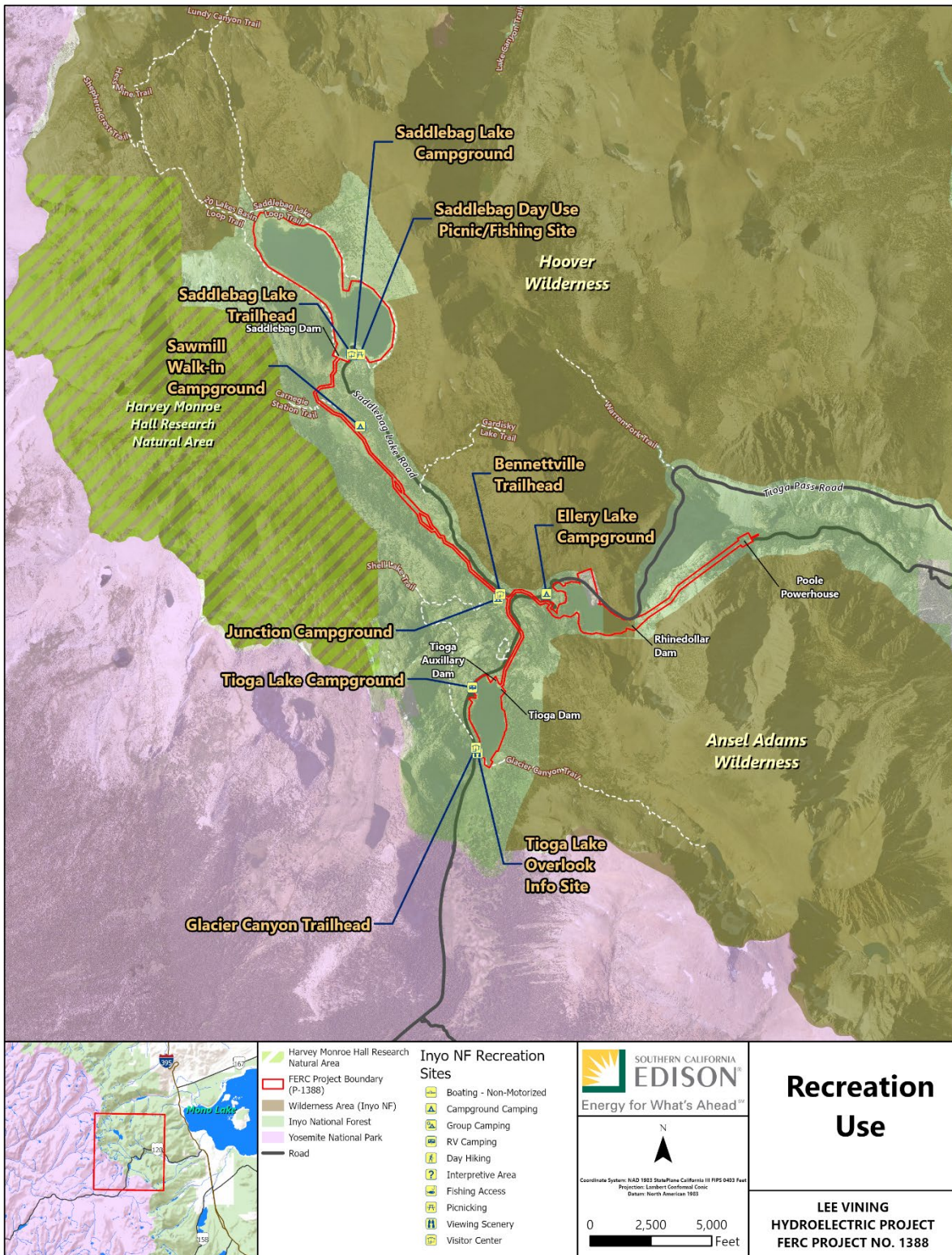


Figure 4-2: 2023 Survey and Data Collection Sites

5.0 EXISTING INFORMATION

- *2015 Licensed Hydropower Development Recreation Report*, FERC Form No. 80 (SCE, 2015)
- *2014 SCE Recreation Use Study Report for Eastern Hydro Division* (SCE, 2015)
- *California's 2021–2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP) (CDPR, 2020)
- National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) Reports for INF (USFS 2006, 2011, 2018)¹
- INF Special Use Permits and Concessionaire Data
- *Inyo National Forest Alternative Transportation System Study* (USDA, 2013)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Stocking and Historical Creel Survey Data
- *Strategic Plan for Trout Management* (CDFG, 2003)
- *Fisheries Techniques, Third Addition* (Zale et al., 2013)

The study will also analyze relevant management plans for the area, including the *Inyo County General Plan* (IC, 2001) and the *Land Management Plan for the Inyo National Forest* (USFS, 2019).

¹ 2021 NVUM data is currently being collected by the USFS and will also be analyzed once available.

6.0 STUDY APPROACH

To accomplish the goals and objectives of this study, Southern California Edison (SCE) is proposing a variety of data collection techniques to compile both historical and current recreation use and needs patterns for the Project. Historical use patterns will be determined by analyzing the studies, reports, and management plans described in Section 5.0 of this Study Plan. Current use and needs information will be collected through user surveys, creel surveys, spot counts, and traffic and trail counters. A description of each collection technique is provided below.

6.1. USER SURVEYS (2022–2023)

6.1.1. FIELD SEASON ONE (2022)

During the first study season (2022), user surveys were conducted on-site using a survey form at the sites identified in Table 4-1 above. These initial surveys were intended to collect the primary reason for each recreator's visit to determine which INF recreation sites or areas may have a potential connection to the Project and thus would warrant inclusion in the broader studies proposed in the second study season (2023). SCE worked with the Recreation and Land Use Technical Working Group (TWG) to develop parameters for determining nexus and final survey forms prior to the 2022 to 2023 field seasons.

SCE conducted visitor surveys 2 days per month (1 weekday and 1 weekend day) from May to September 2022, and 1 day of one holiday weekend for a total of 11 days throughout the study period. For the purposes of this study, the holidays included the 3 days of the holiday weekends Memorial Day: May 28 to 30, 2022; Fourth of July: July 2 to 4, 2022; Labor Day: September 3 to 5, 2022. One visitor survey circuit included conducting visitor surveys at each of the sites identified in Table 4-1. There were three 4-hour shifts: Shift 1 (7 a.m. to 11 a.m.), Shift 2 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.), and Shift 3 (3 p.m. to 7 p.m.). On each of the 11 days, two visitor survey circuits were completed within a 4-hour shift. SCE noted that each circuit will take, on average, approximately 2 hours. Within each shift, once the first circuit was completed, the second circuit commenced. The visitor surveys were conducted following a bus route method (e.g., Pollack et al., 1994); the shift, the starting recreation site for each circuit, and the direction of travel (i.e., clockwise or counterclockwise) were selected randomly on the days the surveys were conducted.

6.1.2. REVISED FIELD SEASON TWO (2023) APPROACH

The Lee Vining Canyon received record-breaking snowfall in winter 2022 to 2023; therefore, many recreation sites may have a delayed opening for the 2023 recreation season. SCE will continue to coordinate with the USFS and TWG members to conduct visitor surveys as soon as feasible.

For the sites identified as having a potential Project nexus from Field Season 1 (2022) surveys, visitor surveys will be conducted in the second study season using a survey form (available in both English and Spanish) to collect recreation user characteristics and demographics (e.g., origin, gender, age, and group size); satisfaction; type of activities;

length of stay; and perception of crowdedness, site conditions, fees, and site needs (Attachment 1). The data collected will be used to provide a general pattern of recreation use (e.g., type, volume, and daily) and assist in the development of recreation use estimates for the Project. The data will provide recreation user inputs on “crowdedness” and potential facility needs. Survey instruments, methods, and locations for winter surveys will likely be different from those for summer. Final survey forms, methods, and study locations were developed in collaboration with the Recreation and Land Use TWG (Attachment 1).

Similar to Field Season 1, SCE proposes to conduct visitor surveys 2 days per month (1 weekday and 1 weekend day) from May to October 2023, and 1 day of one holiday weekend for a total of 13 days throughout the study period. For the purposes of this study, the holidays include the 3 days of the holiday weekend Memorial Day: May 27 to 29, 2023; Juneteenth: June 17 to 19, 2023; Fourth of July: July 1 to July 3, 2023; and Labor Day: September 2 to 4, 2023. Due to potential weather-related delays, the proposed schedule may change. SCE will communicate any changes in schedule with the Recreation and Land Use TWG as soon as possible.

One visitor survey circuit includes conducting visitor surveys at each of the sites identified in Table 4-1. There will be three 4-hour shifts: Shift 1 (7 a.m. to 11 a.m.), Shift 2 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.), and Shift 3 (3 p.m. to 7 p.m.). On each of the 13 days, two visitor survey circuits will be completed within a 4-hour shift. SCE anticipates each circuit will take approximately 2 hours. Within each shift, once the first circuit is completed, the second circuit will commence. The visitor surveys will be conducted following a bus route method (e.g., Pollack et al., 1994); the shift, the starting recreation site for each circuit, and the direction of travel (i.e., clockwise or counterclockwise) will be selected randomly on the days the surveys are conducted.

All survey clerks for both the general recreation surveys and creel surveys discussed below will be trained thoroughly as a means of quality control. Survey clerks will be provided with detailed information on the study schedule, appropriate materials to aid in data collection, and direction on appropriate interviewing techniques and attire.

6.2. REVISED CREEL SURVEYS (2023)

Creel sampling will be conducted according to the standard protocols published in *Fisheries Techniques, Third Addition* (Zale et al., 2013). Surveys will utilize a field data sheet at each of the sites identified in Table 4-1 above to collect angler characteristics (e.g., origin, gender, age, and group size); determine current angler timing, effort, harvest, composition, and success; and estimate catch-per-unit effort by species. Creel surveys will be conducted during peak fishing season (between Fishmas and Labor Day 2023), which equates to a period of 128 days.

SCE proposes to conduct creel surveys for approximately 30 percent of the creel survey period, including one representative day from each of the four major holiday weekends (Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, and Labor Day weekends) and the remainder of survey days split between weekdays and non-peak weekend days. The

specific survey schedule will be randomly generated according to that criteria. Similar to visitor surveys, the schedule for creel surveys may be affected by weather-related delays in access and facility opening. One creel survey circuit will be completed each sampling day and includes conducting creel surveys at each of the sites identified in Table 4-1. There will be two 4-hour blocks (morning and afternoon/evening) on each sampling day. The creel surveys will be conducted following a bus route method (e.g., Pollack et al., 1994); the shift, the starting recreation site for each circuit, and the direction of travel (i.e., clockwise or counterclockwise) will be selected randomly on the days the surveys are conducted.

All survey clerks for both the general recreation surveys and creel surveys will be trained thoroughly as a means of quality control. Survey clerks will be provided with detailed information on the study schedule, appropriate materials to aid in data collection, and direction on appropriate interviewing techniques and attire.

Creel survey forms have been reviewed by the TWG and are included in Attachment 1.

6.3. SPOT COUNTS (2023)

Spot counts will be conducted at each recreation site identified in Table 4-1 in conjunction with user surveys outlined in Section 6.1.2. Spot counts will allow for documentation of the number of vehicles and trailers at each parking area as a means of estimating the number of users currently at the site along with weather, time, and license plate data.

SCE proposes to conduct spot counts 2 days per month (1 weekday and 1 weekend day) from May to October 2022, and 1 day of one holiday weekend for a total of 13 days throughout the study period. For the purposes of this study, the holidays include the 3 days of the holiday weekend Memorial Day: May 27 to 29, 2023; Juneteenth: June 17 to 19, 2023; Fourth of July: July 1 to July 3, 2023; and Labor Day: September 2 to 4, 2023. One spot count circuit includes performing a spot count at each of the sites identified in Table 4-1. There will be three 4-hour shifts: Shift 1 (7 a.m. to 11 a.m.), Shift 2 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.), and Shift 3 (3 p.m. to 7 p.m.). On each of the 13 days, two spot count circuits will be completed within a 4-hour shift. SCE anticipates each circuit will take approximately 2 hours. Within each shift, once the first circuit is completed, the second circuit will commence. The spot counts will be conducted following a bus route method (e.g., Pollack et al., 1994); the shift, the starting recreation site for each spot count circuit, and the direction of travel (i.e., clockwise or counterclockwise) will be selected randomly on the days the counts are conducted.

SCE met with the Recreation and Land Use TWG on March 15, 2023, to finalize the spot count location and schedule for the 2023 field season; the spot count form is included in Attachment 1.

6.4. TRAFFIC COUNTERS (2023)

SCE will install one traffic counter just before the Saddlebag Trailhead. Traffic counters will document the number of vehicles accessing the Saddlebag Lake recreation site on a daily basis. Data will be calibrated three times throughout the field season and will be

downloaded biweekly (Attachment 1). The traffic counter will be installed as soon as access to Saddlebag Lake is possible by the survey team.

6.5. TRAIL COUNTERS (2023)

Approximately five trail counters will be installed total, at the recreation sites identified in Table 4-1. Trail counters will collect the number of recreationists using the trails on a daily basis. Trail counter data will be calibrated three times throughout the field season and will be downloaded biweekly. Trail counter installation will occur as soon as the survey team has access to the recreation facilities.

6.6. ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

The following sections provide a description of the approach to estimating existing and future recreational use, recreation site capacity and use density percentages, and recreation needs. A report will be prepared documenting the analysis results. The report will include a summary of all collected information and discussion of the analyses described below. The report will address all applicable Desired Conditions, Goals, Standards, and Guidelines of the *Land Management Plan for the Inyo National Forest* (USFS, 2019). SCE will meet with the Recreation and Land Use TWG in early 2024 to discuss results of the 2023 surveys once data has been reviewed internally for quality control purposes.

6.6.1. CURRENT RECREATION USE AND DENSITY ESTIMATES

Average recreation use will be calculated utilizing spot counts, traffic and trail counters, and user survey data. For vehicle estimates, it will be assumed, on average, a total party size per vehicle of 2.5 people, as estimated in the INF's most recent NVUM report (USFS, 2018). Estimates will be categorized by site; site type; and activity based on weekday, weekend, holiday, morning, afternoon or evening use, as well as by monthly total use. For the purposes of this study, the carrying capacity for a recreation site is defined as the number of vehicles and boat trailers that can be parked at a recreation site at one time, based on the number of available parking spaces associated with the particular site. For paved parking lots, this will be achieved by counting the number of designated parking spaces available at the recreation site. For unmarked parking, maximum vehicle space will be estimated. Peak and average use density at each site will be estimated based on the average number of vehicles observed divided by the parking capacity of that site.

6.6.2. FUTURE RECREATION USE ESTIMATES

Estimated projections of future recreation use will be developed using the average annual increase in population growth over the past 10 years, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau. These estimates will be augmented with discussion of trends reported in the 2021 SCORP (CDPR, 2020); 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021 (when available) NVUM reports for INF (USFS, 2006, 2011, 2018), and the *Land Management Plan for the Inyo National Forest* (USFS, 2019). Estimated projections will be provided in 5-year intervals for the anticipated term of the license up to 50 years into the future.

While it is acknowledged that future changes in the supply of recreation resources, either in their quantity, accessibility, and/or quality, may influence future demand and use, the demand analysis undertaken for this study does not attempt to predict future changes or how they might specifically affect levels of use at Project facilities. Therefore, the demand analysis results should be viewed as a general guide of potential future recreation pressure developed for planning purposes only.

6.6.3. RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Estimates of future Project-related recreational demand and needs will rely on the results provided by the recreation use assessment and visitor surveys for user preferences and opinions on needs and crowding.

The need for new recreation opportunities, new site development, or modification of existing recreation resources will be assessed based on the results of facility condition assessments, site capacity estimates, and user surveys that provide user preferences and opinions on needs and crowding at each site and the Project as a whole. Based on these results, recommendations will be proposed to address future Project facilities and operations, consistent with the Desired Conditions, Goals, Standards, and Guidelines described in the *Land Management Plan for the Inyo National Forest* (USFS, 2019), to then be discussed with the Recreation TWG.

7.0 SCHEDULE

Date	Activity
2022 – Spring/Summer	Conduct initial user surveys to determine primary reason for visit
2022 – Nov/Dec	Analyze initial findings from Field Season 1
2023 – January/February	Progress Report and Meeting
2023 – March	Consult with TWG to determine study sites and methods for 2023 field season
2023 – Spring/Summer/Winter	Conduct season two studies
2023 – Fall/Winter	Compile study results
2024 – Winter	Review preliminary data from 2023 with TWG
2024 – Spring	Distribute draft report to TWG
2024 – July/August	Resolve comments and prepare final report
2024 – September	Distribute final report in Draft License Application

TWG = Technical Working Group

8.0 CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Prior to filing the Pre-Application Document (PAD) and Notice of Intent (NOI), SCE hosted Recreation and Land Use Resources TWG Meetings on January 28, February 25, April 1, and May 27, 2021, which resulted in study requests from Stakeholders to address questions regarding visual quality. Notes and materials from these meetings are available at www.sce.com/leevining. Stakeholder comments are summarized in the consultation summary table below (Table 8-1). SCE filed draft Study Plans with the PAD and NOI on August 12, 2021. SCE reviewed all comments received and drafted Revised Technical Study Plans, which were distributed to the TWGs on February 18, 2022, for another 30-day review period. All comments received related to this Study Plan are included in Table 8-1 below and were incorporated into the Final Study Plan where appropriate, which was filed with FERC on April 25, 2022.

On January 23, 2023, SCE distributed a Draft 2022 Progress Report and Technical Memos to Stakeholders for a 30-day review period. The memos included preliminary data from 2022 study implementation; a meeting to discuss those memos was held on February 1, 2023. Comments were received from CDFW and USFS on the technical memos (Table 8-1). A response to comments matrix, along with the original Progress Report and Technical Memos were filed with FERC on March 31, 2023.

Recreation and Land Use TWGs meetings were held on March 1, 2023, and March 15, 2023, to address implementation of these studies. Relevant comments and suggestions raised in these TWGs are also included in Table 8-1 below.

Table 8-1. Consultation Summary—Response to Comments

Comment Number	Entity	Date/ Forum	Comment	SCE Response
1	Nick Buckmaster CDFW	1/28/2021 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> The Project creates reservoirs, and our department needs to stock those to maintain the value of them to fishermen. Our stocking plan is based on use data, so we will be asking for a study to quantify fishing pressure on reservoirs to inform mitigation measures for stocking. Currently, we have no idea how many fishermen are using the lakes other than a qualitative guess. To capture the target species, catch rates would be the intent. The study would mainly focus on the reservoirs, though we will want to look at creeks as well.	SCE received your formal study request on 2/8/2021 and incorporated it into Study <i>REC-1 Recreation Use Assessment</i> .
2	Katie Goodwin Access Fund	1/28/2021 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> There is a substantial amount of ice climbing that happens below Ellery Lake. Where are the flows coming from and will they change? What fact finding do I need to do to figure out what's happening there? Travel to the climbing site would be over snow, not on trails, resulting in less impacts on vegetation and soil. I would be happy to provide this information. It's a unique area for ice climbing.	SCE is not aware that Project operations contribute to the ice climbing environment below Ellery Lake. The integrity of flowlines is inspected regularly as part of the dam safety program. SCE would welcome any information that may inform future inspections. SCE is proposing to characterize winter use as part of its <i>REC-1 Recreation Use Assessment</i> and will work with the TWG to determine method and sites for analysis.
3	Sheila Irons USFS	1/28/2021 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> In the past, there have been conflicts at Saddlebag Lake between the resort's water taxi service and lake levels. Since there are no lake level requirements on Saddlebag Lake, the resort sometimes has issues with lake levels being too low to operate.	SCE reviews instream flows and resulting lake levels at Saddlebag Lake annually in April and August with the USFS. SCE will characterize use at the resort, including its water taxi service as it relates to lake levels, as part of its REC-1 study using SCE lake level data and USFS concessionaire data.
4	Bartshe Miller MLC	1/28/2021 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> I'm interested in the pullouts at Ellery and Tioga Lakes. Are those in the Project area? Are there opportunities to organize/clarify traffic there, manage people, and include	Pullouts on State Route 120 alongside Ellery and Tioga Lakes are ultimately the responsibility of the California Department of Transportation. However, the formal pullout at Ellery Lake will be included in user surveys and spot counts

Comment Number	Entity	Date/ Forum	Comment	SCE Response
			interpretive displays since the pullouts attract people to observe the scenery? What about adding restrooms?	conducted under REC-1 efforts in the 2023 field season. Informal pullouts surrounding the Project reservoirs (Saddlebag, Ellery, and Tioga Lakes) will be included in the 2022 dispersed use assessment. Based on the information collected from that assessment, SCE will discuss with the TWG whether additional surveys, spot counts, or traffic/trail counters may be needed during REC-1 efforts in the 2023 field season.
5	Nick Buckmaster CDFW	2/8/2021 Formal Study Request (Emailed Document)	[Formal request for creel survey]	SCE received your formal study request incorporated it into the Study <i>REC-1 Recreation Use Assessment</i> . Creel sampling will follow the standard protocols published in <i>Fisheries Techniques, Third Addition</i> (Zale et al., 2013), and analysis will include review of CDFW's <i>Strategic Trout Management Plan</i> . Methods will include surveys and spot counts at both the Project reservoirs and campgrounds located on creeks within the FERC Project Boundary (Sawmill Walk-in and Junction Campgrounds).
6	Nick Buckmaster CDFW	2/25/2021 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> To summarize the Creel Census study request, we don't have a good estimate of fishing pressure at the Project. The reservoirs/resources are essentially created by the Project. We want to determine what the users would like to see, what fish they want to catch, etc. We want to use professional standards for a good robust creel survey, the industry standard. We also want to include areas around campgrounds, but in general we are more concerned with the lakes. Consider doing a "roving creel" or "car creel" to estimate differential pressure between lakes and streams. The assumption is that fishermen using campground areas and creeks are also fishing in the lakes. We could get a rough count of creek fishers while doing the lake assessment.	SCE received your formal study request incorporated it into the Study <i>REC-1 Recreation Use Assessment</i> . Creel sampling will follow the standard protocols published in <i>Fisheries Techniques, Third Addition</i> (Zale et al., 2013), and analysis will include review of CDFW's <i>Strategic Trout Management Plan</i> (CDFG, 2003). Methods will include surveys and spot counts at both the Project reservoirs and campgrounds located on creeks within the FERC Project Boundary (Sawmill Walk-in and Junction Campgrounds).

Comment Number	Entity	Date/ Forum	Comment	SCE Response
7	Katie Goodwin Access Fund	2/25/2021 TWG Meeting	<p><i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> It is already well known, but this year especially this added camping pressure is a product of needing to have permits to enter Yosemite. There is a lot of dispersed camping anywhere you can fit a vehicle. The permit requirement was reinstated for 2021, it was implemented as a response to Covid-19.</p>	<p>Pullouts on State Route 120 alongside Ellery and Tioga Lakes are ultimately the responsibility of the California Department of Transportation. However, the formal pullout at Ellery Lake will be included in user surveys and spot counts conducted under REC-1 efforts in the 2023 field season. Informal pullouts surrounding the Project reservoirs (Saddlebag, Ellery, and Tioga Lakes) will be included in the 2022 dispersed use assessment. Based on the information collected from that assessment, SCE will discuss with the TWG whether additional surveys, spot counts, or traffic/trail counters may be needed during REC-1 efforts in the 2023 field season.</p>
8	Bartshe Miller MLC	2/25/2021 TWG Meeting	<p><i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> We are putting together our study requests still. Possibility of focused recreation use studies at Saddlebag, Ellery pull out, and at north end of Tioga Lake in regards to vehicle density on dirt areas. There is the possibility of non-point source pollution and run off (dumping of coolers, pet waste, etc.) at these pullouts increasing due to recreation/vehicle use at these pull outs.</p> <p>Pulling off in these areas is due to the scenic views at the reservoirs, so they seem related to the Project. Camping right at the shoreline of Saddlebag and Tioga Lakes is increasing, with no buffer between vehicles. This isn't happening at Ellery Lake because there is no direct driving access to the shoreline.</p>	<p>Pullouts on State Route 120 alongside Ellery and Tioga Lakes are ultimately the responsibility of the California Department of Transportation. However, the formal pullout at Ellery Lake will be included in user surveys and spot counts conducted under REC-1 efforts in the 2023 field season. Informal pullouts surrounding the Project reservoirs (Saddlebag, Ellery, and Tioga Lakes) will be included in the 2022 dispersed use assessment. Based on the information collected from that assessment, SCE will discuss with the TWG whether additional surveys, spot counts, or traffic/trail counters may be needed during REC-1 efforts in the 2023 field season.</p> <p>The nexus between water quality impacts from non-Project pullouts is discussed in Study <i>WQ-1 Stream and Reservoir Water Quality</i>.</p>
9	Katie Goodwin Access Fund	2/25/2021 TWG Meeting	<p><i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> Regarding recreation use at Saddlebag Lake, I use that trail a lot. I noticed last year that there is a ferry across Saddlebag Lake that cuts out about two miles of easy walking. There are impacts from people offloading from</p>	<p>A dispersed use assessment will be conducted in 2022 around each of the Project reservoirs (Saddlebag, Ellery, and Tioga Lakes), including the use at the back end of Saddlebag Lake. Based on the information collected from that</p>

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			the ferry on Saddlebag Lake and scattering across the tundra grass there. There is degradation of trails and vegetation there from picnicking and offloading. There is less camping, more backpacking, fishing, and picnicking happening. Wondering if it's worth looking at since there are a lot of people using the area.	assessment, SCE will discuss with the TWG whether additional surveys, spot counts, or traffic/trail counters may be needed during REC-1 efforts in the 2023 field season. The REC-1 study will also characterize water taxi use at the lake using USFS concessionaire data.
10	Monique Sanchez USFS	4/1/2021 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> Are recreation studies only proposed in the spring/summer? We may not be capturing all of the Project-induced recreation if we only focus on one time of year.	SCE will work with the TWG to develop an appropriate schedule for REC-1 studies that will capture relevant recreation use throughout the recreation season(s), understanding that the type of use changes depending on time of year (spring/summer compared to winter).
11	Adam Barnett USFS	4/1/2021 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> We are working on additional details for those three studies using your form. There are other things we'd like you to capture. Some of the use is outside of the currently defined Project boundary but has a strong nexus. We want to make sure those things aren't overlooked in analysis, such as Poole Powerhouse access road and access areas to recreation areas along the road. Also include an assessment of use of Project area when people come up from the campgrounds farther downstream on Lee Vining Creek; we would like a better understanding of whether people using these downstream campgrounds are using the Project area for recreation. We are putting these questions/concerns into a format for the relicensing team to use.	SCE proposes to utilize the first field season (2022) for on-site user surveys at each developed INF recreation site mentioned in INF's proposed study requests. These initial surveys are intended to collect the primary reason for each recreator's visit to determine which INF recreation sites or areas may have a potential connection to the Project. The collected information will be used in discussions with the TWG to determine which sites warrant broader studies (Recreation Use Assessment, Facilities Condition Assessment) in a second field season (2023) but would not imply that they are ultimately related to Project operations.
12	Bartshe Miller MLC	4/1/2021 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> Considering road pullouts, whoever is responsible for them, they do cross between both CalTrans and SCE. The pullouts affect the Project area, viewshed and recreation experience, bathrooms, etc. The recreation use study will probably cover it, but existing facilities clearly don't meet the needs of visitors (especially bathrooms). Point source pollution is still an issue. Dispersed camping	Pullouts on State Route 120 alongside Ellery and Tioga Lakes are ultimately the responsibility of the California Department of Transportation. However, the formal pullout at Ellery Lake will be included in user surveys and spot counts conducted under REC-1 efforts in the 2023 field season. Informal pullouts surrounding the Project reservoirs (Saddlebag, Ellery, and Tioga Lakes)

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			<p>and overnight parking are also being invited in these areas. The conditions/facilities of pullouts around the Project area are promoting incremental use. I'm thinking specifically of the Ellery and Saddlebag pullout locations.</p> <p>SCE isn't responsible for the increase in travelers, but SCE is the custodian for this part of the forest where their Project is located. The Project encourages visitors to stop along the way. People can't reasonably enjoy the area as they have in the past given the lacking existing facilities.</p> <p>People stop where there are pullouts, or any spaces off the road to park, those are invitations to recreate for dog walking, launching a kayak, taking photos, etc.</p>	<p>will be included in the 2022 dispersed use assessment. Based on the information collected from that assessment, SCE will discuss with the TWG whether additional surveys, spot counts, or traffic/trail counters may be needed during REC-1 efforts in the 2023 field season.</p>
13	Monique Sanchez USFS	4/1/2021 TWG Meeting	<p><i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> It seems like we are assuming a lot, that people are there not for the Project or are using the pullouts as an invitation. There are a lot of unknowns. We need to think about how to ask these questions. Unless there is a study that defends it, we need to take a deeper look. We can also come up with a recreation plan where we come back together at look at these needs every so often.</p>	<p>SCE proposes to utilize the first field season (2022) for on-site user surveys at each developed INF recreation site mentioned in INF's proposed study requests. These initial surveys are intended to collect the primary reason for each recreator's visit to determine which INF recreation sites or areas may have a potential connection to the Project. The collected information will be used in discussions with the TWG to determine which sites warrant broader studies (<i>REC-1 Recreation Use Assessment, REC-2 Existing Recreation Facilities Condition Assessment</i>) in a second field season (2023) but would not imply that they are ultimately related to Project operations.</p>
14	USFS	4/22/2021 Formal Study Request (Emailed Document)	<p>Evaluate recreation use of lower Lee Vining canyon campgrounds (Big Bend, Aspen, Moraine, Lower Lee Vining, Cattleguard) to determine dependence of users on project stream flows and project reservoirs.</p> <p>Evaluate public use of recreation facilities, trails, and dispersed camping surrounding Saddlebag Lake and</p>	<p>SCE proposes to utilize the first field season (2022) for on-site user surveys at each developed INF recreation site mentioned in INF's proposed study requests. These initial surveys are intended to collect the primary reason for each recreator's visit to determine which INF recreation sites or areas may have a potential</p>

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			along the Saddlebag Lake access road including backpacking and camping use at the north end of the lake.	<p>connection to the Project. The collected information will be used in discussions with the TWG to determine which sites warrant broader studies (Recreation Use Assessment, Facilities Condition Assessment) in a second field season (2023) but would not imply that they are ultimately related to Project operations.</p> <p>A dispersed use assessment will be conducted in 2022 around each of the Project reservoirs (Saddlebag, Ellery, and Tioga Lakes), including the use at the back end of Saddlebag Lake. Based on the information collected from that assessment, SCE will discuss with the TWG whether additional surveys, spot counts, or traffic/trail counters may be needed during REC-1 efforts in the 2023 field season. The REC-1 study will also characterize water taxi use at the lake using USFS concessionaire data.</p>
15	USFS	4/22/2021 Formal Study Request (Emailed Document)	Evaluate public education needs for areas closed to dispersed camping.	Information collected for dispersed use at the Project reservoirs will be used in post-field season TWG discussions to determine whether public education or management efforts are needed.
16	USFS	4/22/2021 Formal Study Request (Emailed Document)	Include use of Saddlebag Lake water taxi service in study analysis.	SCE reviews instream flows and resulting lake levels at Saddlebag Lake annually in April and August with the USFS. SCE will characterize use at the resort, including its water taxi service as it relates to lake levels, as part of its REC-1 study using SCE lake level data and USFS concessionaire data.
17	USFS	4/22/2021 Formal Study	Include the following site-specific recreation activities in the study design: Ellery Lake access to Ellery Bowl for backcountry skiing and climbing...	SCE will work with the TWG to incorporate Ellery Bowl into winter data collection efforts during REC-1 study efforts in the 2023 field season.

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		Request (Emailed Document)		
18	USFS	4/22/2021 Formal Study Request (Emailed Document)	Include the following site-specific recreation activities in the study design: ... Kayaking at all lakes and the need for put-in development...	REC-1 surveys conducted during the 2023 field season will be designed to collect information regarding current kayaking use or desired use at the Project reservoirs.
19	USFS	4/22/2021 Formal Study Request (Emailed Document)	Include the following site-specific recreation activities in the study design: ... Dispersed camping around Ellery outlet and waterfall...	A dispersed use assessment will be conducted in 2022 around each of the Project reservoirs (Saddlebag, Ellery, and Tioga Lakes), including use below Rhinedollar Dam/Outlet. Based on the information collected from that assessment, SCE will discuss with the TWG whether additional surveys, spot counts, or traffic/trail counters may be needed during REC-1 efforts in the 2023 field season.
20	USFS	4/22/2021 Formal Study Request (Emailed Document)	Include the following site-specific recreation activities in the study design: ... Ice climbing use on Poole Powerplant Rd which is plowed during winter for plant access.	See response to comment number 2 above.
21	USFS	4/22/2021 Formal Study Request (Emailed Document)	Include assessment of winter recreation activities.	SCE will work with the TWG to develop an appropriate schedule for REC-1 studies that will capture relevant recreation use throughout the recreation season(s), understanding that the type of use changes depending on time of year (spring/summer compared to winter).
22	USFS	4/22/2021 Formal Study Request	The proposed project includes the Poole Power Plant Road which was likely built as part of the creation of the Lee Vining hydropower project. The new road provided additional access to Lee Vining creek and opened a new	SCE proposes to utilize the first field season (2022) for on-site user surveys at each developed INF recreation site mentioned in INF's proposed study requests. These initial surveys

Comment Number	Entity	Date/ Forum	Comment	SCE Response
		(Emailed Document)	<p>area of the Inyo NF to recreation development including Big Bend, Aspen, and Moraine campgrounds.</p> <p>The Lower Lee Vining and Cattleguard campgrounds may also have a nexus to the proposed project if this study finds that a significant portion of campground users stay here in order to recreate in the project vicinity, such as fishing at Tioga, Ellery, or Saddlebag Lakes.</p> <p>In addition, there is likely a nexus to recreation facilities on the Saddlebag Lake road which provides easy access to Saddlebag group camp, campground, trailheads, picnic area, boat ramp, Sawmill campground, and Gardisky Lake trailhead. Many of these facilities depend directly on the existing lake and the other facilities depend on the presence of the road.</p> <p>There is also a nexus to recreation facilities in the vicinity of Tioga and Ellery lakes including Ellery Lake Campground, Tioga Lake Campground, and Tioga Lake overlook/Glacier Canyon trailhead. These facilities were built after the proposed project and located in relationship to the project reservoirs in order to provide for their use by the public.</p> <p>The study area should include all campgrounds, day use sites, trailheads, FS system trails, user-created trails, roads, and dispersed campsites adjacent to or in the vicinity of: Lee Vining Creek, Glacier Creek, Ellery Lake, Tioga Lake, or Saddlebag Lake.</p> <p>Rec sites: Include all developed recreation sites in Lee Vining Canyon, along Saddlebag Road, and around Saddlebag Lake. NFS trails: Saddlebag Lk trail, Glacier Canyon trail User-created trails: trails around project lakes and along creeks</p>	<p>are intended to collect the primary reason for each recreator's visit to determine which INF recreation sites or areas may have a potential connection to the Project. The collected information will be used in discussions with the TWG to determine which sites warrant broader studies (Recreation Use Assessment, Facilities Condition Assessment) in a second field season (2023) but would not imply that they are ultimately related to Project operations.</p> <p>The Study <i>LAND-1 Project Lands and Roads</i> will include consultation with USFS staff to identify roads or access trails that may be used predominantly for Project purposes, such as for operation and maintenance of Project facilities or access to Project-related recreation opportunities.</p> <p>A dispersed use assessment will be conducted in 2022 around each of the Project reservoirs (Saddlebag, Ellery, and Tioga Lakes) but not along the creeks. Based on the information collected from that assessment, SCE will discuss with the TWG whether additional surveys, spot counts, or traffic/trail counters may be needed during REC-1 efforts in the 2023 field season.</p>

Comment Number	Entity	Date/ Forum	Comment	SCE Response
23	USFS	4/22/2021 Formal Study Request (Emailed Document)	<p>The study area should include all campgrounds, day use sites, trailheads, FS system trails, user-created trails, roads, and dispersed campsites adjacent to or in the vicinity of: Lee Vining Creek, Glacier Creek, Ellery Lake, Tioga Lake, or Saddlebag Lake.</p> <p>Rec sites: Include all developed recreation sites in Lee Vining Canyon, along Saddlebag Road, and around Saddlebag Lake.</p> <p>NFS trails: Saddlebag Lk trail, Glacier Canyon trail</p> <p>User-created trails: trails around project lakes and along creeks</p>	<p>SCE will include all developed USFS sites listed in this request as part of its Season 1 user surveys to determine the primary reason for user visits and whether there is a nexus to the Project itself.</p> <p>SCE will include an assessment of Saddlebag Lake Trail in Season 2 use and needs studies but does not propose including Glacier Canyon Trail in any detailed assessments. The trailhead facilities for Glacier Canyon Trail and any informal spurs leading around Tioga Lake will be studied as part of Season 2 activities, but no assessment of the trail or trail use itself is being proposed as the draw is the wilderness and not Tioga Lake.</p> <p>SCE proposes to conduct a dispersed use assessment around Ellery, Saddlebag, and Tioga Lakes. This will include the dispersed camping and pullout areas previously identified in TWG discussions. This will not include an inventory of use along the creeks.</p>
24	USFS	4/22/2021 Formal Study Request (Emailed Document)	<p>Provide historic context for recreation facility development and hydropower facility development including an analysis of the timeline and location of recreation facilities in relationship to project reservoirs. For example, the construction of Big Bend, Aspen, and Moraine campgrounds after the construction of the Poole Power Plant road.</p>	<p>SCE does not understand how this context would inform discussions of Project nexus since the current baseline is the existing Project facilities. The REC-1 phased approach will assist in determining nexus through user survey implementation.</p>
25	Monique Sanchez USFS	5/27/2021 TWG Meeting	<p><i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> Usually landscape architects work with the visual study team to figure out how the visual quality impacts visitors' experience. We have done this in other projects.</p>	<p>SCE understands that there is usually a crossover between recreation user surveys and visual surveys and an opportunity to efficiently combine efforts. Visual surveys will be considered in the selection of REC-1 survey and</p>

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				data collection methods and locations for the 2023 field season.
26	Monique Sanchez USFS	5/27/2021 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> What are the proposed study seasons, how will you determine if you'll do a second season for each Study? Since we had such an abnormal amount of use in 2020 because of COVID-19, I'd like to hear back from our recreation specialists, maybe the first season would have odd results. It could be a high or low use year in 2021/2022. Having both seasons of data would help us get a better understanding of what is going on.	No data will be collected in 2021; study seasons will begin in 2022. SCE understands that we are currently in a unique environment and that atypical recreation use and/or unexpected events that would affect the proposed studies are highly likely in the coming years. SCE will continue to coordinate with the TWG and rely on USFS staff for guidance on whether studies should be altered or re-scheduled as we move through the study season.
27	Bartshe Miller MLC	5/27/2021 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> Expressed concerns about a large number of vehicles driving and parking in Saddlebag Lake bottom when water levels are low. The access point observed is near the concessionaire water taxi. Where is this being addressed, is the concessionaire involved, and how does it affect SCE's operations?	Vehicle intrusion at Ellery and Saddlebag Lakes will be generally assessed as part of the REC-2 dispersed use assessment, though there may be crossover during LAND-1 discussions regarding Project roads and road condition. USFS concessionaire data, operations, and special use permits will also be reviewed and characterized as part of REC-1 and REC-2 studies. The nexus between water quality impacts from non-Project pullouts is discussed in Study <i>WQ-1 Stream and Reservoir Water Quality</i> .
28	Bartshe Miller MLC	5/27/2021 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> Mono County is pursuing a grant to improve the road and infrastructure up to Saddlebag Lake. This could be a problem if not done with inter-agency collaboration and SCE to help manage some of the issues we are studying here. The road is beyond repair, so they are considering paving it.	SCE will continue to monitor the proposed construction to determine whether improvements contemplated in TWG discussions or following field data collection may be incorporated into the effort. The proposed construction will also be monitored in case construction schedules conflict with proposed user surveys, as construction may result in temporary closure of certain INF sites to the public.
29	USFS	1/14/2022	4.5.8 Project Recreation Sites	Informal recreational use around Ellery Lake and Rhinedollar Dam facilities will be assessed as

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		Comments on Initial Study Requests	Recreational use of the penstock below Ellery Lake, needs to be included in the study. 52 climbing routes are accessed from the penstock - https://www.mountainproject.com/map/109223681/lee-vining-canyon-tioga-road	part of Study <i>REC-2 Existing Recreation Facilities Condition Assessment</i> . This use has been noted, and SCE will continue to consult with the Recreation and Land TWG to determine whether data (surveys or trail data) warrants collection under Study <i>REC-1 Recreation Use Assessment</i> or whether a general characterization of the use is sufficient for later discussions.
30	USFS	1/14/2022 Comments on Initial Study Requests	5.8.5.5. Climbing Recreational use of the penstock below Ellery Lake, needs to be included in the study. 52 climbing routes accessed from the penstock - https://www.mountainproject.com/map/105798288/sierra-eastside	See response to Comment 29 above.
31	USFS	1/14/2022 Comments on Initial Study Requests	Table 6.1-1. Resource Issues, Data Gaps, and Potential Studies/Recreation Use The recreational use of the Penstock below Rhinedollar dam should be evaluated.	See response to Comment 29 above.
32	CDFW	1/14/2022 Comments on Initial Study Requests	CDFW Comment: CDFW is supportive of the recreation creel survey as described. CDFW would like to review the proposed survey dates/schedule prior to implementation.	SCE will continue to consult with the Recreation and Land TWG on proposed survey dates and schedule prior to implementation.
33	CDFW	1/14/2022 Comments on Initial Study Requests	Fisheries monitoring should be focused on documenting the need for stocking and evaluating angler use.	Studies AQ-1 and AQ-2 will evaluate densities, age-class distributions, and condition of current fish populations in Project reservoirs and affected stream reaches. Study REC-1 includes a creel survey to evaluate angler use and satisfaction. Additionally, the Licensee releases water that enhances angling opportunities throughout the Project Area.

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34	CDFW	1/14/2022 Comments on Initial Study Requests	Fisheries monitoring should be focused on documenting the need for stocking and evaluating angler use.	Studies AQ-1 and AQ-2 will evaluate densities, age-class distributions, and condition of current fish populations in Project reservoirs and affected stream reaches. Study REC-1 includes a creel survey to evaluate angler use and satisfaction. Additionally, the Licensee releases water that enhances angling opportunities throughout the Project Area.
35	CDFW	3/25/2022 Comments on Revised Study Proposal	Ellery and Tioga day use area should be included as Creel locations.	The Licensee intends to perform creel surveys at all day use areas associated with both Ellery Lake and Tioga Lake campgrounds. The USFS does not have any formal day use areas on the shoreline of either lake outside of these campgrounds.
36	CDFW	3/25/2022 Comments on Revised Study Proposal	Random sampling dates should be stratified into weekend/weekday/holiday blocks. The current proposed sampling effort is too low. A minimum of 10 days/month should be sampled, although this varies based on use.	SCE proposes to conduct creel surveys for approximately 30 percent of the creel survey period (98 days from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend), which will essentially meet the request of at least 10 survey days per month. Survey days will be randomly generated but will include one representative day from each of the three major holiday weekends (Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day weekends) and the remainder of survey days will be split between weekdays and non-peak weekend days.
37	USFS	2/21/2023 Comments on Progress Report and Technical Memos	Study results (Table 4-3) indicate substantial use of the upper canyon for recreation by campers staying at Lower Lee Vining Campground (22%) and Moraine Campground (29%). Survey results at both locations are within the 50% confidence interval threshold established by SCE. INF requests that these locations be included in the 2023 continuation of REC-1 to capture potential use displaced by the lack of available campsites in the upper canyon. Displaced visitors are exactly the people who could be	While SCE agrees the 50% confidence interval threshold is met by both the Lee Vining Campground and Moraine Campground, neither of the sites meet the 55% threshold for recreationists recreating in upper Lee Vining Canyon, which was also utilized. Surveyors asked recreationists if the campground they were staying at was their preferred location. Of the 24 recreationists surveyed at the Moraine

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			<p>best able to inform the extent to which additional camping capacity may be needed in the upper canyon.</p>	<p>Campground, none of them indicated they preferred to stay somewhere else. Of the 36 recreationists surveyed at the Lower Lee Vining Campground, 3 indicated they would have preferred to stay somewhere other than the sites listed in the survey, 1 indicated they preferred to stay at Moraine Campground, 1 indicated they preferred to stay at Tioga Lake Campground; however, no sites were available.</p> <p>Additionally, it is SCE's understanding, based on conversations at the March 1 REC TWG meeting, that the USFS feels that information gathered at these locations would be useful in the event that recreation facilities in the FERC Project Area need to be expanded and facilities in the upper Lee Vining Canyon are limited due to geography and topography. However, it is SCE's position that gathering this data now would be premature and there is currently no nexus to these facilities. For these reasons, SCE does not intend to include these two sites in the REC-1 2023 surveys.</p>
38	USFS	2/21/2023 Comments on Progress Report	<p>Because winter 2022/2023 may be a near-record snow year, springtime could present an opportunity to measure substantial over-snow recreation in the project area including snowmobiling and skiing. The INF requests that the 2023 survey be designed to capture over-snow use in addition to summer recreation uses by surveying in April and May.</p>	<p>Snowmobiling and skiing were not previously identified as recreation opportunities to be included, and SCE does not see any Project nexus with these over-snow activities. However, SCE will include them as activity options in the 2023 survey forms when interacting with recreators. Once Tioga Pass Road opens and surveyors are in the Project Area, recreators engaging in these activities will be included opportunistically at the previously identified survey locations. For purposes of ensuring that over-snow use is adequately described in the License Application, SCE would welcome an</p>

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				opportunity to incorporate the revised management plan being developed by the USFS for this area.
39	USFS	2/21/2023 Comments on Progress Report	Based on the findings from REC-1 in 2022, recreation in the upper canyon was the primary activity for users of Sawmill Walk-in Campground and Junction Campground (Figure 4-1). Include these campgrounds in the recreation facilities condition survey in 2023. Survey responses at both campgrounds are well within the 50% confidence interval threshold set by SCE in REC-1.	These campgrounds have been added to the 2023 REC-2 Recreation Facilities Condition Assessment.
40	USFS	2/21/2023 Comments on Progress Report	REC-1 results indicate that a substantial portion of visitors staying at Lower Lee Vining Campground (22%) and Moraine Campground (29%) recreate in the upper canyon as their primary activity. These two lower canyon campgrounds should be included in the REC-2 recreation facilities condition assessment in 2023 because of their potential nexus with the project and the possibility that improving these campgrounds may be an option if improvements at upper canyon campgrounds are prevented by physical or biological constraints.	SCE does not intend to include these sites in the REC-2 study for the reasons previously discussed above (comment 37).
41	Adam Barnett USFS	3/1/2023 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> Nearly a third of respondents from the area reported that they come to recreate in the upper canyon. Substantial can be debated, the amount responded was more than negligible. If we're trying to evaluate the need for facilities it would make sense to ask people from those two new locations [Moraine and Lee Vining campgrounds].	It is SCE's understanding, based on conversations at the March 1 REC TWG meeting, that the USFS feels that information gathered at these locations would be useful in the event that recreation facilities in the FERC Project Area need to be expanded and facilities in the upper Lee Vining Canyon are limited due to geography and topography. However, it is SCE's position that gathering this data now would be premature and there is currently no nexus to these facilities. For these reasons, SCE does not intend to include these two sites in the REC-1 2023 surveys.

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42	Adam Barnett USFS	3/15/2023 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> Could you provide something a bit more meaningful on question #12, with a wider scale of options for more useful information. A larger scale makes it easier to assign meaning to the results. It would be more useful to have comparable data, considering other surveys done in the Inyo National Forest. We would like to use this data for other information. A 1-9 scale at Bishop Creek recreation surveys.	The REC-1 survey forms will be made similar to the 1-9 scales used in the Bishop Creek REC survey(s).
43	Adam Barnett USFS	3/15/2023 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> On question #9, the language “fishing in the reservoir” may be confusing to users. “Lake” might be more common nomenclature as opposed to reservoir.	Question #9 on the REC-1 survey forms will be adjusted to replace “reservoir” with “lake.”
44	Adam Barnett USFS	3/15/2023 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> For question #13 [on the user survey data sheet], does it make sense to include “avoiding holidays”? That’s a typical response.	Question #13 on the REC-1 survey forms will be adjusted to add language about holiday use.
45	Adam Barnett USFS	3/15/2023 TWG Meeting	<i>Paraphrase of comment in meeting:</i> [In regard to questions #16-19 on the user survey data sheet] I wonder how people interpret the Lee Vining “Area?” Typically, recreation areas are referred to as Lee Vining “Canyon.”	Questions #16–19 on the REC-1 survey forms will be adjusted to include “Lee Vining Canyon” as well as provide a map to orient users.
46	Alyssa Marquez CDFW	3/16/2023 Comments on survey forms	Adding photos of each fish next to what species were caught by the angler could be a good idea. At 37.945920, -119.257871 there looks like there is another turnout that could be used for fishing access that is not included in the creel survey locations.	Field staff will request to take additional photos of fish caught by anglers. The new turnout site has been added to the survey area.

CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife; INF = Inyo National Forest; MLC = Mono Lake Committee; SCE = Southern California Edison; TWG = Technical Working Group; USFS = U.S. Forest Service

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ATTACHMENT 1: SURVEY FORMS

General Recreation Survey

Clerk: _____ Site: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

Weather: Sunny Partly Cloudy Cloudy Light Rain Heavy Rain

1. What is your home zip code? _____
2. Including yourself, how many people are in your party today? ____ *people in party*
3. Please provide the number of people in each age group within your party.
 Under 18 18–24 25–34 35–44 45–54 55–64 65+
4. Is this your first visit to the Lee Vining Canyon? Yes No
5. What day did you arrive at the Lee Vining Canyon? _____
6. At what time did you arrive at the Lee Vining Canyon? _____ am / pm
7. How much time will you spend on your current trip?
 _____ *Number of hours* -----OR----- _____ *Number of days (If 24 hours or more)*
8. If you plan to stay overnight, what type of overnight accommodations did or will you use on your trip (*Mark all that apply*):
 Campground *Location:* _____
 Rented cabin/condo/home/motel/hotel *Location:* _____
 Your own home/property
 Other *Please Specify:* _____
9. Please indicate which of the following recreational activities you are participating in on this trip (*Mark all that apply*):
 Bicycling Personal Watercraft Use Day Hiking Cross Country Skiing
 Camping Photography Overnight Backpacking Snowmobiling
 Rock Climbing Picnicking Viewing Scenery
 Fishing in Creek Relaxing Viewing Wildlife
 Fishing in Lake Scenic Driving OHV Use
 Other: _____
10. Of the activities listed above, please indicate which is the **primary** activity of this trip (*Choose only one*): _____
11. Are there types of recreational activities or facilities appropriate for the Lee Vining Canyon that are not currently provided?
 Yes No N/A ***If yes, please list:***

12. Please help us understand capacity issues in the Lee Vining Canyon by answering the following questions (*circle one response for each item*):

	Not at all crowded	Slightly crowded	Moderately crowded	Extremely crowded						
<i>How crowded did you feel today?</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	N/A
<i>Was it more or less crowded than you thought it would be?</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	N/A
13. Have you ever changed your use of the Lee Vining Canyon due to crowding? Yes No N/A
If yes, how have you changed your use of this area? (*Mark all that apply*)
 Visit the area during the off-season Visit earlier in the morning
 Visit the area during weekdays Visit a different part of the Lee Vining Area
 Visit the area on days to avoid holidays

14. We are interested in your opinion about the **number of existing recreation facilities** in the Lee Vining Canyon. (Please indicate a response for **any** of the following facilities you have used during your visit)

		Too High				About Right				Too Low	Don't Know
Publicly Available Recreation Sites	Quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Restrooms	Quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Parking	Quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Picnic or Day Use Areas	Quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Boat Launches	Quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Public Docks	Quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Hiking Trails	Quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Swim Areas	Quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Campsites	Quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Signage	Quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Fish Cleaning Stations	Quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

15. We are interested in your opinion about the **condition of existing recreation facilities** in the Lee Vining Canyon. (Please indicate a response for **any** of the following facilities you have used during your visit)

		Too High				About Right				Too Low	Don't Know
Publicly Available Recreation Sites	Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Restrooms	Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Parking	Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Picnic or Day Use Areas	Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Boat Launches	Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Public Docks	Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Hiking Trails	Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Swim Areas	Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Campsites	Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Signage	Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Fish Cleaning Stations	Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

16. How would you rate the use fees associated with the campgrounds in the Lee Vining Canyon? (Mark one for each item)

	Too High				About Right				Too Low	Don't Know
Boat Rental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Campground Fees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

17. What did you like **most** about your visit to the Lee Vining Canyon?

18. What did you like **least** about your visit to the Lee Vining Canyon?

19. Do you have any additional comments about public recreation opportunities and facilities in the Lee Vining Canyon? (Please be as specific as possible)

Angler Survey Data Sheet

GENERAL INFO (will likely be the same for all interviews at the same survey location. Ok to put Ditto)

Date		General Weather Conditions	Sunny	Overcast	Cloudy
Survey Location			Rain	Heavy Rain	Snow/sleet/hail
Arrival Time		Notes			
Departure Time					
Air Temp: _____°F					

ANGLER INFO

Interview Time	
Number of anglers in party	
ZIP code	
What time did you start fishing?	
How much longer will you fish?	
Target Species (primary)	
2 nd Target Species (If applicable)	
How often (frequency) do you fish in the area?	<i>Examples Just passing through # times per year</i>
How do you define quality of fishing?	Fish Species/Size Catch Rate Natural Setting Solitude Park Amenities Water Access Proximity <i>Any other potential variables</i>
How does fishing quality compare here to other nearby locations you've fished this trip? (If applicable)	
How does overall fishing quality here compare to past experiences here? (If applicable)	

BIOLOGICAL DATA (Enter total number of harvested (H) and released (R) fish in each size class)

Species	<8 in.	8 in.	9 in.	10 in.	11 in.	12 in.	13 in.	14 in.	15 in.	16 in.	17 in.	18 in.	19+ in.
Rainbow trout													
Brook trout													
Brown trout													
Other													
Notes													

Date _____

Temp _____

Observer Initials _____

Weather Sunny Part Cloudy Cloudy Light Rain Heavy Rain (Note any weather changes during site visits)

Site Location	Time Hour/Min AM or PM	No. of Vehicles	Vehicle State Origin	Type/Number of Boat(s)*			No. of People Participating in											Total No. of People at Site	Comments/ General Description					
				Individual Kayak	Commercial Boat	Other Watercraft	Biking	Camping	Fishing	Hiking/walking/trail use	White-water boating/rafting	Boating (non-motorized)	Photography	Picnicking	Relaxing	Viewing Scenery	Viewing Wildlife			Other				

*as observed from water's edge approximately 50-100 feet upstream and downstream
Contact Information:

Additional notes/comments:

