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List of Acronyms

ACEC	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
AW	American Whitewater
BLM	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
Commission	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
JK	John Krebs
KCNP	Kings Canyon National Park
NPS	National Park Service
NRI	Nationwide Rivers Inventory
ORV	Outstandingly Remarkable Value
Project	Kaweah Project
RMP	Resource Management Plan
SCE	Southern California Edison Company
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SKC	Sequoia Kings Canyon
SNP	Sequoia National Park
TCRMA	Tulare County Resource Management Agency
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Watershed	Kaweah River Watershed
W&SR	Wild and Scenic River
WSA	Wilderness Study Area

3.11 RECREATION

This section describes the recreational resources in the vicinity of the Kaweah Project (Project). The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) content requirements for this section are specified in Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Chapter I § 5.6(d)(3)(viii).

The FERC regulations require the applicant to provide information regarding both recreation and land use. This section provides general information about the developed and dispersed recreation resources and opportunities in the Kaweah River Watershed (Watershed), and specific information about recreation opportunities associated with the Project. Non-recreation land use within and adjacent to the FERC Project boundary is discussed separately in Section 3.10 Land Use.

3.11.1 Information Sources

This section was prepared utilizing the following information sources:

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bakersfield Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BLM 2014);
- California Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations (CDFW 2015);
- California Whitewater. A Guide to the Rivers (Cassady, J. and Calhoun, F. 1995);
- California Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-4250);
- Environmental Assessment, Kaweah Project FERC Project No. 298-000 (FERC 1991);
- Final General Management Plan and Comprehensive River Management Plan, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Middle and South Forks of the Kings River and North Fork of the Kern River (NPS 2006);
- Kaweah Hydroelectric Project Recreation Resources Report (KEA 1989);
- Kaweah River Management Plan – River Rafting (TCRMA 1997) and subsequent updates (TCRMA 2000; TCRMA 2005);
- List of Comprehensive Plans (FERC 2014);
- Milk Ranch Case Mountain Wilderness Study Report (CA-010-023) (BLM no date);
- Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) (NPS 2011);
- Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11);
- The Best Whitewater in California (Holbeck, L. and Stanley, C. 1998);
- Wild and Scenic River (W&SR) Suitability Report for Bakersfield Field Office, California. (Tetrattech 2010);
- Various state and federal agency websites; and
- Various whitewater boating websites.

3.11.2 Setting

The Project is located on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada in Tulare County, California. All of the facilities under FERC jurisdiction are located along the Kaweah River, upstream of the community of Three Rivers, and along the East Fork Kaweah River, a tributary to the Kaweah River, on private lands or on public lands administered by the BLM. Lake Kaweah, owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), is located southwest of the Project, approximately five river miles downstream of the Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse. The Sequoia National Park (SNP) is located immediately north and east of the Project and encompasses the Sequoia-Kings Canyon and John Krebs Wilderness areas (Map 3.11-1).

The Project facilities and bypass reaches associated with the Project are accessible via State Highway 198, which parallels the Kaweah River, and Mineral King Road, which parallels the East Fork Kaweah River. These two roadways serve as the primary access routes into the SNP (Map 3.11-1). Recreational use in the immediate vicinity of the Project is minimal. The area serves mainly as a transportation corridor to the SNP.

The nearest developed public recreation facilities are located at Lake Kaweah and in the SNP (Map 3.11-1). Camping opportunities are also available at private campgrounds in Three Rivers. Historically, developed recreation facilities were also operated along the North Fork Kaweah River on land managed by the BLM. However, the BLM has temporarily closed these facilities due to public safety and resource concerns (BLM 2010). There are no developed recreation facilities on the East Fork Kaweah River in the vicinity of the Project. BLM lands adjacent to the East Fork Kaweah River and the Kaweah River in the vicinity of the Kaweah No. 3 Powerhouse are primarily used for dispersed, semi-primitive recreational activities such as hunting and hiking.

3.11.3 Existing Project Recreation Facilities

Most of the land surrounding the Project facilities and bypass reaches is privately owned, which restricts public access and limits opportunities for recreational development. Therefore, there are no developed recreational facilities or trails associated with the Project.

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) maintains one informal access point to the Kaweah River (Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse River Access), referred to by the local community as "Edison Beach". This access point is located adjacent to the Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse and consists of a small parking area with six parking stalls, one of which is accessible. Due to concerns by local residents, use of this site between Memorial Day and Labor Day is only allowed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 am and 7:00 pm. At all other times of the year, the Kaweah No. 2 River Access Area is open seven days per week between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. When the river access is closed, an A-frame sign is posted at the entrance providing hours of operation and entry is blocked by a barrier.

When the current FERC license was issued, the FERC required SCE to construct a formal access point at the Kaweah No. 3 Powerhouse with parking, sanitation, and improved trail facilities to enhance recreational use of the Project. However, this site was not constructed due primarily to opposition by adjacent landowners and concerns expressed by National Park Service (NPS) law enforcement officials. The FERC formally deleted this requirement from the Kaweah License by order issued June 30, 1993.

3.11.4 Recreation Opportunities

Recreation opportunities in the vicinity of the Project are primarily limited to fishing and whitewater boating. These opportunities are discussed in the following subsections.

3.11.4.1 Fishing

The Kaweah River and its tributaries support rainbow trout, brown trout, and brook trout. In addition, smallmouth bass are present at lower elevations. Good fishing opportunities are available on all of the forks of the Kaweah River, but the best fishing reportedly occurs on the river segments located within the SNP.

According to the California Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations (CDFW 2015a), the Kaweah River and its tributaries are open year-round to angling with a daily limit of five fish, 10 in possession. Fishing on the segments of the Kaweah River and its tributaries located within the SNP are subject to SNP fishing regulations. Segments within the SNP, below 9,000 feet elevation are managed as a catch-and-release fishery and artificial flies and lures with barbless hooks are required. Above 9,000 feet elevation, state fishing regulations apply (36 CFR § 2.3 – Fishing).

Recreational fishing in the bypass reaches associated with the Project is limited due to the rugged terrain, limited access, and low trout abundance. Historically, the California Department of Fish and Game (now the California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]) stocked the lower reaches of the Kaweah River (downstream of the SNP boundary) each spring and summer with about 4,000 catchable rainbow trout (FERC 1991). However, the CDFW discontinued this program because the river is naturally too warm to support a self-sustaining trout population. Trout may move downstream into the reach during the winter, but warm summer temperatures typically preclude full-time residency. Recent fish sampling data on the Kaweah River in the vicinity of the Project indicate that the current fish population is dominated by warm water fishes (SCE 2007).

3.11.4.2 Whitewater Boating

Whitewater boating opportunities are available on the Kaweah River and its tributaries. These runs are identified on Table 3.11-1, which includes basic descriptive data based on existing information available in select published guide books and whitewater boating websites.

As indicated on Table 3.11-1, with the exception of the Kaweah River downstream of Dinely Bridge, all of the runs are rated Class IV or higher on the International Scale of Difficulty, meaning that they are only suitable for advanced and expert boaters. Also,

although disputed by some boaters, according to the NPS, boating runs located within the SNP are not open to boating.

Of the runs identified on Table 3.11-1, only the Lower East Fork Run and the runs located on the Kaweah River between the Kaweah No. 2 Diversion Dam and the Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse could potentially be affected by Project operations. These runs are shown on Map 3.11-2 and are discussed further in the following. Map 3.11-2 also shows other runs on the Kaweah River for context.

Lower East Fork Run

This 4.3-mile long run is located on the East Fork Kaweah River downstream of the Kaweah No. 1 Diversion Dam. The put-in for this run is at the bridge that crosses the river, which is typically referred to as the Oak Grove Bridge due to its location near the community of Oak Grove. The take-out is at Gateway Bridge which crosses the river Kaweah River just downstream of the East Fork Kaweah River confluence. This run is described as very difficult with numerous mandatory portages around rock sieves. American Whitewater (AW) rates this run as Class V+ “at normal flows” (AW 2015). Bill Pooley rates this run as Class V/V+ at low/medium water and VI at high water (Pooley, B. 2015). Given its level of difficulty and remote location with very limited access, this run is best suited to highly skilled boaters who are capable of portaging across difficult terrain, potentially with ropes and other technical equipment. According to AW, the boatable flow range is 150-350 cubic feet per second (cfs) (AW 2015). Pooley indicates the boatable flow range is 80-200 cfs, with flows greater than 300 cfs considered “high water” (Pooley, B. 2015).

Gateway Bridge Run

This run is a six-mile long run located on the Kaweah River extending from Gateway Bridge (also referred to as Pumpkin Hollow Bridge) to the North Fork Bridge in Three Rivers. Gateway Bridge (put-in) is located just downstream of the confluence of the Kaweah River and East Fork Kaweah, about 0.6 mile downstream of the Kaweah No. 2 Diversion. The take-out is located at the confluence of the Kaweah River and North Fork Kaweah River, at the North Fork Road Bridge. A shorter run is possible by taking out at the Dinely Drive Bridge and a longer run is possible by continuing downstream and taking out at the boat launch on Lake Kaweah (Map 3.11-2). However, this option could involve a long paddle across flat water if the lake is full.

Holbeck and Stanley (1998) rate the Gateway Bridge Run as Class IV on the International Scale of Difficulty at flows ranging from 500-1000 cfs, and class IV+ at flows above 1,000 cfs. Cassidy and Calhoun (1995) rate this run as class V+ at flows ranging from 800-3000 cfs. Pooley rates the overall difficulty of this run as Class IV- at low water and Class V at high water (>3,000 cfs) (Pooley, B. 2015). Given its level of difficulty, this run is best suited to advanced and expert boaters.

Several whitewater outfitters offer rafting trips on this section of the Kaweah River. Commercial boating is regulated by the Tulare County Resource Management Agency

(TCRMA) in accordance with the Kaweah River Management Plan, which was originally adopted by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors on December 16, 1997 (Resolution No. 97-1103) and subsequently updated in 2000 and 2005 (TCRMA 2000; TCRMA 2005). Ordinances related to implementation of the plan are codified in Chapter 35 of the Tulare County Code, which requires commercial outfitters to file a license application annually along with a Commercial River Plan and an application fee. The Kaweah River Management Plan allows for up to eight commercial licenses per year. However, due to the drought, only five licenses were issued in 2015 and these five licenses will be carried into 2016 (pers. comm. Jason Garcia-LoBue 2015). Current licensed outfitters on the Kaweah River include: All-Outdoors California Whitewater Rafting; Beyond Limits; Kaweah Adventures; Whitewater Connection; and Whitewater Voyages (California Whitewater 2015).

Real-Time Flow Information

Real-time flow information for the Kaweah River is collected at a gage located on the Kaweah River, near Three Rivers (Map 3.11-2). This gage is maintained by the USACE and is referred to as the Kaweah River at Three Rivers Gage. This gage measures and records river stage on an hourly basis and the data are available at: <http://rivergages.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/shefdata2.cfm?sid=TRR&d=7&dt>. Dreamflows collects the data posted by the USACE and converts the stage data to flow in cfs using a stage discharge relationship. The converted data are available on the internet at: <http://www.dreamflows.com/graphs/day.103.php>. Most whitewater boating websites provide a link to the Dreamflow data.

3.11.5 Current Recreation Use of Project Lands

The Project does not include any developed recreation facilities or impoundments that would support recreation use. Therefore, pursuant to 18 CFR 8.11(c), SCE is exempt from monitoring and/or reporting recreation use associated with the Project (FERC 2004). Aside from whitewater boating use in the Kaweah River, recreation use in the vicinity of the Project is minimal.

3.11.6 Existing Shoreline Buffer Zones

Shoreline buffer zones serve two purposes: (1) they ensure public access to Project lands and waters; and (2) they help protect the recreation and aesthetic values of the Project reservoirs and their shorelines. Except for the small pools formed behind the diversion dams and two small concrete-lined forebays located above the Kaweah No. 2 and Kaweah No. 3 powerhouses, the Project does not include any reservoirs or impoundments with shorelines. Aside from the area that encompasses the small diversion pools, the Project does not include any shoreline buffer zones.

3.11.7 Shoreline Management Plans

There are no permitted piers, boat docks, landings, bulkheads, or other shoreline facilities associated with the Project. Therefore, SCE does not maintain a shoreline management plan for the Project.

3.11.8 Specially Designated Areas

BLM land surrounding the Project is managed by the BLM's Bakersfield Field Office. Public lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the BLM's Bakersfield Field Office are managed in accordance with the Bakersfield RMP, which was approved in December 2014 (BLM 2014). The Bakersfield RMP supersedes the 2007 Caliente RMP that previously covered BLM lands in the vicinity of the Project. The Bakersfield RMP is summarized in Section 3.10 Land Use.

The RMP identifies areas requiring special management and protection as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Portions of the Project are within and adjacent to the Kaweah ACEC (refer to Map 3.10-2). The goals, objectives, and policies of the Kaweah ACEC are summarized in Section 3.10 Land Use. In general, management policies in the Kaweah ACEC focus on protection of natural resources, including habitat for sensitive species and protection for various natural processes, geologic formations, and cultural resources. The Bakersfield RMP designates portions of the area within the Kaweah ACEC in the vicinity of the Kaweah No. 1 Flowline as the Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). The ERMA offers recreation opportunities in an unchanged middle country setting by allowing visitors to participate in non-motorized activities, including mountain biking, camping, hunting, wildlife and nature observation, photography and picnicking. Other than prohibiting air-soft and paintball activities, managing connected trails for mountain biking, and limitations on commercial special recreation permits, the RMP does not include any specific management policies pertaining to recreation along either the Kaweah River or East Fork Kaweah River.

A combination of topography of the region and surrounding private property has resulted in limited access to the Kaweah ACEC and Case Mountain ERMA. Three routes provide access, including off of Oak Grove Road (off Mineral King Highway), Craig Ranch Road/Salt Creek Road, and Skyline Drive. BLM recently improved public access to the Case Mountain ERMA by creating a new parking lot at the end of Skyline Drive. SCE utilizes Craig Ranch Road/Salt Creek Road to access the Kaweah No. 1 Forebay Tank and Flowline to conduct routine maintenance on a weekly basis and infrequently for special repair projects.

Overall, SCE's operation and maintenance of Project facilities located on BLM land is conducted in accordance with the Bakersfield Office RMP, including meeting BMP objectives and the goals, objectives, and policies associated with BLM-administered lands in the vicinity of the Project.

3.11.9 National Wild and Scenic River System

The Kaweah River and its tributaries are not designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers in the W&SR System. However, as summarized below, the NPS and BLM have conducted studies in the Watershed to determine if segments of the Kaweah River and its tributaries under their jurisdiction are eligible or suitable for inclusion in the National WS&R System. River segments that are found suitable and/or eligible are managed to protect their Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV). None of the bypass reaches associated

with the Project under FERC jurisdiction were found to be eligible or suitable for inclusion in the W&SR System.

Wild and Scenic Study Rivers

In 2006, the NPS conducted studies to determine if the segments of the Kaweah River and its tributaries under its jurisdiction are eligible or suitable for inclusion in the National W&SR System (NPS 2006). The NPS found the following river segments eligible and suitable for inclusion in the National W&SR System:

- Middle Fork Kaweah River from its headwaters to the confluence of the Marble Fork Kaweah River;^[1]
- Marble Fork Kaweah River from its headwaters to the confluence of the Middle Fork Kaweah River;^[2]
- Kaweah River from the confluence of the Middle and Marble forks of the Kaweah River to the SNP boundary;
- East Fork Kaweah River from its headwaters to the SNP boundary; and
- South Fork Kaweah River from its headwaters to the SNP boundary.

The BLM conducted studies to determine if the segments of the Kaweah River and its tributaries under its jurisdiction are eligible or suitable for inclusion in the National W&SR System, specifically: the Middle Fork Kaweah River (0.12 mile); the North Fork Kaweah River (2.5 miles); and the East Fork Kaweah River (2.3 miles). The BLM determined that the Middle Fork Kaweah River and the East Fork Kaweah River are not suitable or inclusion in the W&SR System (BLM 1996). However, the BLM determined that the 2.5-mile long section of the North Fork Kaweah River outside of the SNP boundary is suitable for inclusion in the W&SR System (BLM 1996).

The rivers found suitable for inclusion in the W&SR System by either the NPS or the BLM are shown on Map 3.11-3. As indicated, the studies did not identify any of the bypass reaches associated with the Project under FERC jurisdiction to be eligible or suitable for inclusion in the W&SR System.

3.11.10 State Protected River Segments

The Kaweah River from the Kaweah No. 1 Powerhouse to Lake Kaweah is designated as a Central Valley drainage hardhead/pikeminnow stream and a CNDDDB rare natural community (CDFW 2015b). None of the rivers in the Watershed are designated as a Wild and Heritage Trout Water. In addition, none of the rivers in the Watershed are included in the California W&SR System.

^[1] The Middle Fork Kaweah River is listed on the NRI.

^[2] The Marble Fork Kaweah River is listed on the NRI.

3.11.11 National Trail System

The National Trails System is the network of scenic, historic, and recreation trails created by the National Trails System Act of 1968. The nearest national trail to the Project is the Pacific Crest Trail, which traverses the crest of the Sierra in the SNP. With a few exceptions, the Pacific Crest Trail is one continuous trail that extends more than 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada.

3.11.12 Wilderness Areas

Two designated Wilderness Areas, the Sequoia Kings Canyon (SKC) Wilderness Area and the John Krebs (JK) Wilderness Area, are located in the vicinity of the Project. In addition, two BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), the Milk Ranch/Case Mountain WSA and the Sheep Ranch WSA, are located in the vicinity of the Project. Each of these is briefly described in the following subsections. The location of these Wilderness Areas and WSAs are shown on Map 3.11-3.

Sequoia Kings Canyon Wilderness Area

The SKC Wilderness Area is located north and east of the Project within the SNP. The boundaries of this Wilderness Area are located near the Kaweah No. 1 Diversion and the Kaweah No. 2 Diversion (Map 3.11-3). The SKC Wilderness Area was originally established on September 28, 1984 as part of the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-425) and was expanded in 2009 as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11). Combined, the SKC now includes 768,112 acres of land (UOM no date). Due to its location within the SNP, the SKC Wilderness Area is managed by the NPS. Permits are required year-round for all overnight wilderness trips. Daily entry-trail quotas are in place from the Friday before Memorial Day through late September. Outside the quota period, permits are self-issued at visitor centers or permit stations. Permits are not required for day hikes (NPS 2015).

John Krebs Wilderness Area

The JK Wilderness Area was established in 2009 as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11). The JK Wilderness Area includes 39,967 acres of land located within the SNP, bordered by the SKC Wilderness Area to the north and the Golden Trout Wilderness to the south east (UOM no date). The JK Wilderness Area is bisected by the East Fork Kaweah River but does not encompass any Project facilities. The nearest Project facility is the Kaweah No. 1 Diversion Dam, located approximately 2.2 river miles northwest of the JK Wilderness boundary (Map 3.11-3). The four non-Project lakes that are used to regulate water into the Kaweah Project (Lady Franklin Lake, Crystal Lake, Upper Monarch Lake and Eagle Lake) are surrounded by the JK Wilderness Area. However, Public Law 111-11 explicitly allows for the operation, maintenance, and repair of these lakes and associated dams. Due to its location within the SNP, the JK Wilderness Area is managed by the NPS. Permits are required year-round for all overnight travel in the wilderness. Trail quotas are in place from the Friday

before Memorial Day through late September. Outside the quota season, permits are free and self-issued at visitor centers. Permits are not required for day hikes (NPS 2015).

Milk Ranch/Case Mountain Wilderness Study Area

The BLM identified a WSA in the vicinity of the Kaweah No. 1 Diversion and the Kaweah No. 3 Flowline. This area is referred to as the Milk Ranch/Case Mountain WSA and encompasses 5,742 acres of land, divided across four parcels of land. The parcel closest to the Project facilities is called Milk Ranch and is bound by the Mineral King Road on the southwest and the SNP on the east. Located south of the Mineral King Road, the Kaweah No. 1 Flowline is within one-quarter mile of the WSA (Map 3.11-3). The BLM did not recommend that this WSA be designated a Wilderness Area under the Wilderness Act and has released the WSA for uses other than wilderness. The current status of the Milk Ranch/Case Mountain WSA is continued management in accordance with BLM Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review (IMP) (BLM Handbook H-8550-1) until released from study status by Congress. If released, the Milk Ranch/Case Mountain area will be managed in accordance with the Kaweah ACEC, unless congressional release language provides other specific management guidelines.

Sheep Ranch Wilderness Study Area

The BLM Sheep Ranch WSA is located on the North Fork Kaweah River and encompasses 5,102 acres of land under BLM jurisdiction (BLM no date). As shown on Map 3.11-3, this WSA is not located in the immediate vicinity of any Kaweah Project facilities. The BLM did not recommend that this WSA be designated a Wilderness Area under the Wilderness Act and has released the WSA for uses other than wilderness. The current status of the Sheep Ranch WSA is continued management in accordance with BLM Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review (IMP) (BLM Handbook H-8550-1) until released from study status by Congress. If released, the Sheep Ranch area will be managed in accordance with the Kaweah ACEC, unless congressional release language provides other specific management guidelines.

3.11.13 Regionally or Nationally Important Recreation Areas

One regionally important recreation area, Lake Kaweah, and one nationally important recreation area, the SNP, are located near the Project. These two areas are described in the following subsections.

3.11.13.1 Lake Kaweah

Lake Kaweah is located southwest of the Project approximately five miles downstream of Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse (Map 3.11-1). Lake Kaweah is an 185,000 acre-foot reservoir formed behind Terminus Dam, which was completed in 1962. The dam and reservoir are operated by the USACE for flood control and conservation. Lake Kaweah is generally maintained at a very low level for most of the year, and generally only fills between May and June when the reservoir captures snowmelt run off. When full, the lake covers 1,945 acres.

Lake Kaweah offers a variety of recreational opportunities, including camping and picnicking, and water-based activities such as fishing, water-skiing, sailing, and pleasure boating. Launch ramps are located in the Kaweah, Lemon Hill and Slick Rock recreation areas. Camping is available at the Horse Creek Campground, which includes 80 campsites, restrooms with flush toilets, showers, and a trailer dump station. Day use facilities are located at various locations around the lake including: Lemon Hill Recreation Area; Kaweah Recreation Area; Horse Creek Recreation Area; and Slick Rock Recreation Area. The Kaweah Heritage Visitor Center is located at Lemon Hill and a marina is located near the dam. Current use levels at Lake Kaweah are unknown but in 1988, the total number of visitors to Lake Kaweah was 554,500 (FERC 1991).

3.11.13.2 Sequoia National Park

The SNP is located immediately north and east of the Project (Map 3.11-1). The SNP and adjacent Kings Canyon National Park (KCNP) are jointly administered by the NPS as the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The SNP is a popular recreation destination and visitation has steadily increased each year. Based on NPS use statistics, visitation in the SNP increased from a total of 930,011 visitors in 2008 to 1,106,584 visitors in 2012 (Nationalparked.com 2014).

The SNP encompasses 404,064 acres of land, including the headwaters of the Kaweah River Watershed. The vast majority of the SNP is roadless wilderness. Most of the park is designated wilderness and is accessible only by foot or by horseback. No roads cross the Sierra Nevada within the park's boundaries.

The park is famous for its giant sequoia trees, one of which is the General Sherman tree, one of the largest trees on earth. The General Sherman tree grows in the Giant Forest, which contains five out of the ten largest trees in the world. The Giant Forest is connected to KCNP's General Grant Grove, by the Generals Highway. Other attractions in the SNP include:

- **Sherman Tree Trail** – An 0.8-mile roundtrip paved trail that provides access to the General Sherman tree and meanders through a grove of giant sequoia trees;
- **Tunnel Log** – A tunnel cut through giant sequoia tree that fell across a park road in 1937 due to natural causes;
- **Tokopah Falls** – A 1,200-foot high waterfall located along the Marble Fork Kaweah River, upstream of the Marble Fork Bridge;
- **Crescent Meadow** – A small, sequoia-rimmed meadow in the Giant Forest region of the SNP, called the "Gem of the Sierras" by the conservationist John Muir; and
- **Moro Rock** – A granite dome located in the center of the park, at the head of Moro Creek, between Giant Forest and Crescent Meadow. A 400-step stairway built in the 1930s provides access to the top of the rock, from which most of the park can be viewed.

The SNP provides opportunities for sightseeing, dispersed camping, hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, horseback riding, fishing, picnicking, and nature and interpretive studies (FERC 1991). In addition, the NPS has developed a number of day-use facilities and campgrounds throughout the SNP. Campgrounds located in the Kaweah River Watershed include:

- **Potwisha Campground** – A 42-site campground located near the confluence of the Middle and Marble forks of the Kaweah River;
- **Buckeye Flat Campground** – A 28-site campground located on the Middle Fork Kaweah River;
- **Lodgepole Campground** – A 214-site campground located on the Marble Fork Kaweah River, near Tokopah Falls;
- **Atwell Mill Campground** – A 21-site campground located on the East Fork Kaweah River;
- **Cold Springs Campground** – A campground located on the East Fork Kaweah River with 31 regular sites and 9 walk in sites; and
- **South Fork Campground** – A 10-site campground located on the South Fork Kaweah River.

These campgrounds and the nearby day-use facilities are accessible via State Highway 198 and provide the best developed camping opportunities in the vicinity of the Project (Map 3.11-1).

3.11.14 Current and Future Recreation Needs

The FERC regulations require a discussion of current and future recreation needs identified in State comprehensive plans and regional conservation and recreation plans. SCE evaluated the various comprehensive plans identified on the FERC's December 2014 List of Comprehensive Plans and found a number of plans relevant to the Project. In addition, SCE evaluated other plans not included on the FERC's List of Comprehensive Plans.

The following four plans included on the FERC's List of Comprehensive Plans specifically pertain to recreation and include management direction that may be broadly applicable to the Project:

- California Department of Parks and Recreation. 1998. Public opinions and attitudes on outdoor recreation in California. Sacramento, California;
- California Department of Parks and Recreation. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Sacramento, California. April 1994;
- California - The Resources Agency. Department of Parks and Recreation. 1983; and
- Recreation needs in California. Sacramento, California. March 1983.

In addition, the FERC's List of Comprehensive Plans includes the following two plans that pertain to recreational fisheries:

- California Department of Fish and Game. 2003. Strategic plan for trout management: A plan for 2004 and beyond. Sacramento, California; and
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. n.d. Fisheries USA: the recreational fisheries policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C.

3.11.15 References

American Whitewater (AW). 2015. Kaweah, East Fork – Oak Grove Bridge to Gateway Bridge. Available at:

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/5202/>

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2015a. 2015-2016 California Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations.

_____. 2015b. Biogeographic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game, Natural Diversity Database. Rarefind Version 3.1.0.

California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR). 2009. California Outdoor Recreation Plan 2008. Available at:
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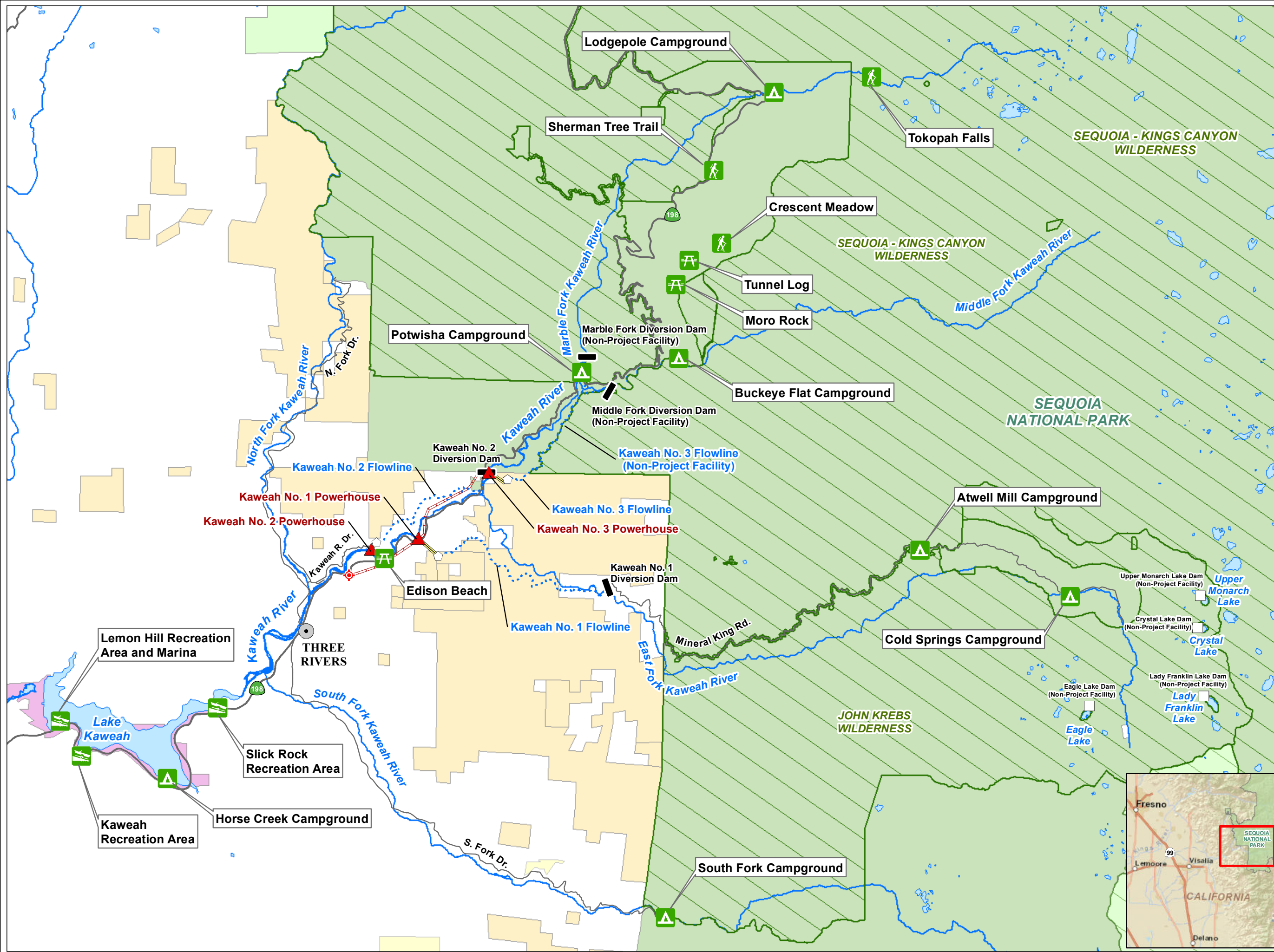
TABLES

Table 3.11-1. Description of Whitewater Boating Runs in the Kaweah River Watershed based on Information in Select Published Guidebooks and Websites.

Run Name	Put In	Take Out	Length (miles)	Overall Rating ¹	Boatable Flow Range (cfs)	Optimum Boating Flow (cfs)	Notes	Source Comments	Source
Middle Fork Kaweah River									
Published Guide Books									
Hospital Rock Run	Hospital Rock	Roadside Pullout	4.8	V V+ above 800	400-800	800	Located within the SNP and therefore not open to boating. Includes a portion of the Kaweah River downstream of the Marble Fork Confluence.		Holbeck, L. and Stanley, C. 1998
Websites									
Hospital Rock Section	Hospital Rock	Marble Fork Confluence	2.6	V+ at low water VI at high water	-	-	Located within the SNP and therefore not open to boating.	"Very difficult and dangerous whitewater and should be attempted ONLY by experts under the most favorable conditions in strong groups."	http://c2.com/kaweah/log
Kaweah River									
Published Guide Books									
Gateway Bridge Run	Gateway Bridge	North Fork Bridge	6	IV IV+ above 1000 V+	500-1000 800-3000	1000 -			Holbeck, L. and Stanley, C. 1998 Cassady, J. and Calhoun, F. 1995
Three Rivers Run	North Fork Bridge	Lake Kaweah Boat Launch	4	II-III III	500-2500 800-300	1500 -			Holbeck, L. and Stanley, C. 1998 Cassady, J. and Calhoun, F. 1995
Websites									
Ash Mountain Section	Marble Fork Confluence Put in below siphon and suspension bridge.	East Fork Confluence	4.4	V at low water V+/VI at medium water Not recommended at high water	-	-	Includes Pooly's "Park Boundary" and "Extended Park Boundary Runs". Located within the SNP and therefore no open to boating.	"Contains two very high gradient sections as well as a very long and difficult portage around the difficult waterfall and gorge below the Park Headquarters at Ash Mountain."	http://c2.com/kaweah/log
Gateway Run	Gateway Bridge	Dinely Drive Bridge	3.1	IV- at low water V at high water (>3,000 cfs)	-	-		"Classic Kaweah Run" "This section is still runnable at flows less than 400 cfs although it becomes quite technical and more rocks are visible than water".	http://c2.com/kaweah/log
Dinely Run	Dinely Drive Bridge	North Fork Bridge	3.0	III at low water IV at high water	-	-	Includes a Class V rapid just above the take out.		http://c2.com/kaweah/log
Lake Run	North Fork Bridge	Lake Kaweah Boat Launch	3.6	II/III at low water III+/IV at high water	-	-	Takes outs vary depending on lake level.		http://c2.com/kaweah/log
East Fork Kaweah River									
Websites									
Lower East Fork	Oak Grove Bridge	Gateway Bridge	4.3	V+ 'at normal flows'	150 - 350			Numerous mandatory portages around sieves are required and the 3 largest rapids are commonly portaged "via slow and grueling terrain".	http://www.americanwhitewater.org
Lower East Fork	Oak Grove Bridge	Kaweah River Confluence	4.3	V/V+ at low/medium water VI at high water	80 - 200 >300 considered high water	-		Rope rescue required in many spots, portage around Dead Mans Alley, nearly impossible exit from canyon, poison oak.	http://c2.com/kaweah/log
North Fork Kaweah River									
Published Guide Books									
Upper Run	Burnt Point Creek	Yucca Creek	4.1	IV+	200-800	400			Holbeck, L. and Stanley, C. 1998
Lower Run	Yucca Creek	Kaweah Bridge	6.4	IV-V-	800-1500	1200			Holbeck, L. and Stanley, C. 1998
Websites									
Upper North Fork	Eshom Creek	Yucca Creek	5.1	V at low water Not recommended at high water	-	-		Requires 5 mile hike with boat to put-in.	http://c2.com/kaweah/log
North Fork	Yucca Creek	Paradise Beach	3.65	IV at low water V at high water	-	-		Hazards include Cherry Falls and pinning spots.	http://c2.com/kaweah/log
Lower North Fork	Paradise Beach	Baily Bridge	2.1	III+ technical at low water IV at high water	-	-		Not suitable for rafts. Hazards include trees, logs and brush.	http://c2.com/kaweah/log
Lower Lower North Fork	Baily Bridge	Kaweah Confluence	2.6	III+ technical at low water IV at high water	-	-		Not suitable for rafts. Hazards include trees, logs and brush. Scouting is nearly impossible due to dense brush.	http://c2.com/kaweah/log
South Fork Kaweah River									
Websites									
South Fork	Park Boundary	One Lane Bridge	6.5	V+ at low water Not recommended at high water	-	-		Not suitable for rafts. Many like portages. Hazards include trees, logs, brush, high gradient, sharp rocks.	http://c2.com/kaweah/log
Shatner Ranch Run	One Lane Bridge	Silver Truss Bridge	2	IV at low water Not recommended at high water	-	-		Not suitable for rafts. Two portages. Dangerous unrunnable bridge 1/2 mile above take out.	http://c2.com/kaweah/log
Silver Truss Run	Silver Truss Bridge	Sequoia Oaks Drive	1.85	IV at low water Not recommended at high water	-	-		Not suitable for rafts. Hazards includes trees, logs and brush.	http://c2.com/kaweah/log
Amazon Run	Sequoia Oaks Local Access Bridge	First Bridge Crossing	0.9	Unrunnable	-	-		Unrunnable due to severe strainer hazard and overhanging brush.	http://c2.com/kaweah/log
Lower South Fork	First Bridge	Kaweah Confluence	1.75	III at low water Not recommended at high water	-	-		Not suitable for rafts. Hazards includes trees, logs and brush.	http://c2.com/kaweah/log

¹Based on International Scale of Difficulty
- = not available.

MAPS



- ### Facilities
- Powerhouse
 - Diversion
 - Dam
 - Utility
 - Forebay
 - Flowline
 - Penstock
 - Transmission Line

- ### Recreation Facilities
- Boat Launch
 - Campground
 - Day-Use Area
 - Hiking Trail

- ### Other Features
- City/Town
 - Highway/Road
 - Watercourse
 - Water Body

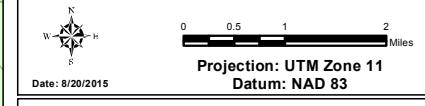
- ### Land Jurisdiction*
- Bureau of Land Management
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - National Park Service
 - U. S. Forest Service
 - Private (Blank)

- ### Land Management
- National Wilderness Area

*SOURCE: BLM 2012

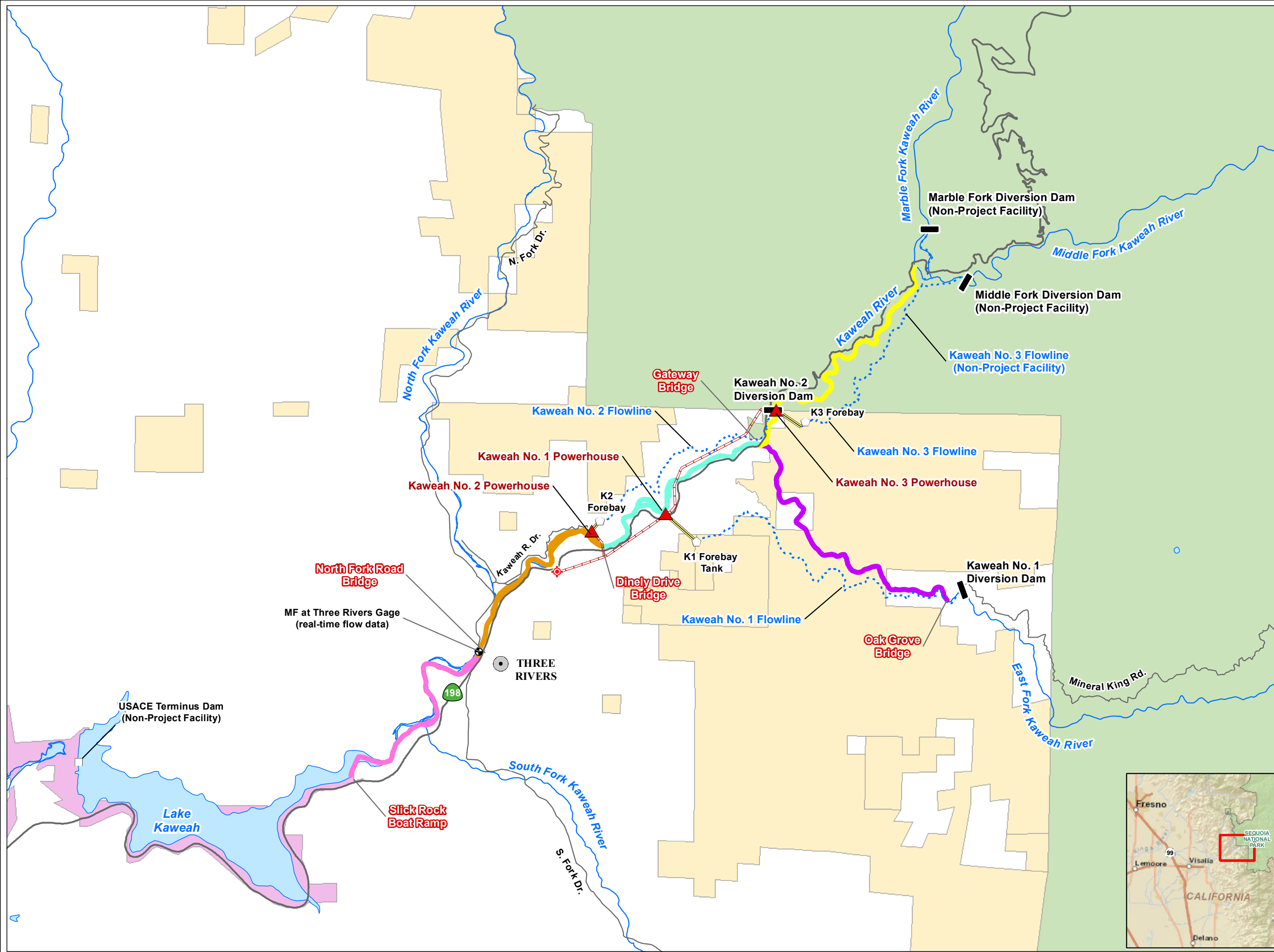


Eastern Hydro Generation
Map 3.11-1
Land Jurisdictions and Recreation Facilities in the Kaweah River Watershed



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- ### Facilities
- Powerhouse
 - Diversion
 - Dam
 - Utility
 - Flow Gage
 - Forebay
 - Flowline
 - Penstock
 - Transmission Line
- ### Other Features
- City/Town
 - Highway/Road
 - Watercourse
 - Water Body

- ### Land Jurisdiction*
- Bureau of Land Management
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - National Park Service
 - U. S. Forest Service
 - Private (Blank)


- *SOURCE: BLM 2012
- ### Whitewater Boating Runs
- Kaweah River
- Ash Mountain Section
 - Gateway Bridge Run
 - Dinely Bridge Run
 - Three Rivers Run
- East Fork Kaweah River
- Lower East Fork Run



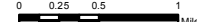
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Map 3.11-2

Whitewater Boating Runs on the Kaweah River and East Fork Kaweah River



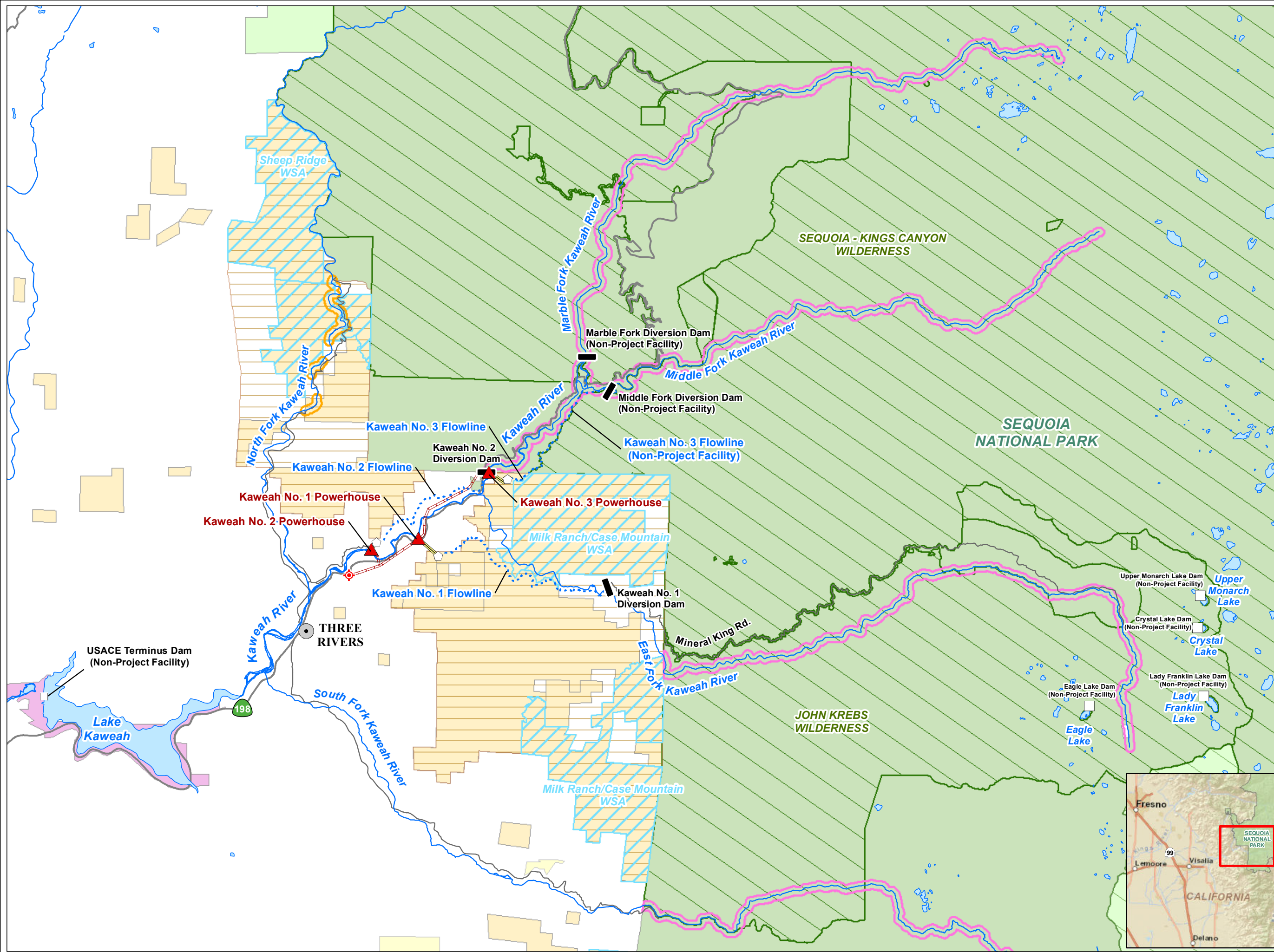
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- ### Facilities
- Powerhouse
 - Diversion
 - Dam
 - Utility
 - Forebay
 - Flowline
 - Penstock
 - Transmission Line


- ### Other Features
- City/Town
 - Highway/Road
 - Watercourse
 - Water Body

- ### Land Jurisdiction*
- Bureau of Land Management
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - National Park Service
 - U. S. Forest Service
 - Private (Blank)

*SOURCE: BLM 2012

- ### Land Management
- National Wilderness Area
 - BLM Wilderness Study Area (WSA)
 - BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern

- ### Wild and Scenic Rivers
- NPS Study River found suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System
 - BLM Study River found suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System




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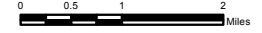
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Map 3.11-3

Specially Designated Management Areas in the Kaweah River Watershed



Date: 8/20/2015



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