

3.2.6 Recreation Resources

3.2.6.1 Overview

In addition to this introductory information, this section is divided into six subsections. Sections 3.2.6.2 and 3.2.6.3 provide information regarding recreation opportunities at the Project reservoir and in river reaches potentially affected by the Project. Section 3.2.6.4 provides information about current recreation use levels in the Project Area. Section 3.2.6.5 describes recreation needs identified in pertinent resource management plans. Section 3.2.6.6 lists other regionally or nationally significant recreation areas in the Project Vicinity. Section 3.2.6.7 describes known or potential Project effects on recreation.

SSWD prepared this section based on its collection of existing, relevant and reasonably available information on recreation. Specifically, SSWD found four source documents specific to recreational resources at the Project. These are listed below and cited throughout this section:

- CDFW 1964 to 1985
- FERC 2007
- SSWD 2003
- DWR 1991 to 2014

3.2.6.2 Recreation Facilities and Opportunities in and around the Project Reservoir

3.2.6.2.1 Recreation Opportunities

The Project provides developed and undeveloped recreation opportunities at Camp Far West Reservoir. Water-related recreational opportunities include water skiing, wakeboarding, power boating, jet skiing, wildlife viewing, non-motorized boating and warmwater fishing. Boating use and launching occurs year round. Yuba County Ordinance 8.51.010 limits the speed of boats to 20 miles per hour (m.p.h.) on the reservoir (Yuba County 2010a). Camp Far West Reservoir offers anglers shoreline and boat-based fishing opportunities for smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, striped bass, catfish and panfish (CDFW 2015m). The reservoir does not have any site-specific fishing regulations or limits (CDFW 2015n). Historically, Cal Fish and Wildlife stocked Camp Far West Reservoir with warmwater game fish species from 1964 to 1985 (CDFW 2015o). Refer to Section 3.2.3.4.2 for the fish stocking details.

Land-based recreation opportunities provided in the Project Vicinity include camping, wildlife viewing, hiking, biking and horseback riding. Facilities developed to support camping and other land-based recreation activities are described in Section 3.2.6.2.2. While the recreation areas do not provide formal trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding, the dispersed use areas provide a network of unpaved roads that provide a trail experience for visitors. In addition, informal trails occur within the FERC Project Boundary, primarily near the NMWSE, which are a result of non-Project cattle and ranch trails as well as Project user-created trails and paths due to the

gentle sloping terrain adjacent to the shoreline. Dispersed camping is allowed outside the developed recreation areas.

The concessionaire that operates the two developed recreation areas at Camp Far West Reservoir provides numerous and varied events at the recreation areas and reservoir, including bi-monthly fishing tournaments, boating and fishing club events, equestrian events and other group events.

Due to private lands abutting the Project, the only public access by vehicle to Camp Far West Reservoir occurs at the two Project recreation areas. However, due to the gentle slopes and terrain at Camp Far West Reservoir, nearly all of the shoreline within the FERC Project Boundary is publicly accessible by foot or boat, particularly when the water level is below the NMWSE. The developed boat ramps at the NSRA and SSRA, respectively are described in Section 3.2.6.2.2.

3.2.6.2.2 Project Recreation Facilities

As a condition of its FERC license, SSWD provides recreational opportunities and facilities within the FERC Project Boundary. Below is a description of the developed facilities and recreation opportunities at Camp Far West Reservoir. The recreation areas are also shown on the 1:24,000 series maps included in Appendix E of this PAD.

SSWD owns and maintains two developed recreation areas at Camp Far West Reservoir – the NSRA and SSRA (Table 3.2.6-1). The NSRA and SSRA are the only public vehicular access points to the reservoir for recreation due to private lands. Outside of the recreation areas, the remaining shoreline is only accessible by foot or boat. All of these facilities are located on SSWD-owned land and operated through a concessionaire. The recreation facilities were originally constructed using Davis-Grunsky Act funding and the NSRA boat ramp was reconstructed in 2005 using the DBOW Boat Launching Facilities Grant funding.

Based on site observations on July 21, 2015, SSWD has provided a general assessment of the condition of each facility. Importantly, the facilities and site amenities (e.g., restrooms, tables, pedestal grills, roads and water spigots) at both recreation areas are mostly the same design, construction and/or model and are of similar age within each amenity type. SSWD used the following condition rating categories:

- Poor. Replacement or rehabilitation likely within 5 years.
- Fair. Replacement or rehabilitation likely within 6 to 10 years.
- Good. Replacement or rehabilitation likely within 10 to 20 years.
- Very Good. Replacement or rehabilitation likely beyond 20 years.

In the facility descriptions below, SSWD has categorized the condition of each facility and site amenities. Notably, the most recent FERC Public Use and Environmental Inspection on July 19, 2007 noted only a single recreation facility issue at the NSRA (i.e., 2 overturned picnic tables), and no issues at the SSRA (FERC 2007).

Table 3.2.6-1. Recreation facilities at the NSRA and SSRA.

Facility	Amenity	North Shore Recreation Area	South Shore Recreation Area
Family Campgrounds	No. Sites (standard)	70	67
	Sites (RV with hookups)	10	none
	Parking Spurs	1 spur per site	1 spur per site
	Overflow Parking Spaces	None	18 single
	Restrooms	2 flush	1 flush, 2 vault
Group Campgrounds	Sites	2, 25-person group sites, 1, 50-person horse camp site	1, 50-person group site
	Parking Spaces	none ¹	10
	Restrooms	4 portable chemical toilets	none ²
Day Use Areas	Picnic Sites	20	33
	Swim Beaches	1	1
	Parking Spaces	none ³	44
	Restrooms	1 flush	none ⁴
Boat Ramps	Number	1, 4-lane concrete ramp	1, 2-lane concrete ramp
	Parking Spaces	82 single, 73 vehicle with trailer	52 vehicle with trailer
	Restrooms	1 flush	1 flush
Dispersed Use Areas ⁵	Sites	2	2
	Restrooms	6 portable chemical toilets	6 portable chemical toilets
Other Facilities	Store	1	1
	RV Dump Stations	1	1
	Concessionaire Trailers	2	1

¹ Parking is available in open areas adjacent to the group sites, but is not designated or defined.

² The group campsites use the adjoining family campground restroom building.

³ The day use area (picnic area and swim beach) uses the adjoining boat ramp parking area for parking.

⁴ The picnic area uses the adjoining boat ramp restroom building.

⁵ The dispersed use areas provide day use and overnight opportunities with minimal facilities (roads, portable chemical toilets and trash cans).

3.2.6.2.2.1 North Shore Recreation Area

The NSRA is located on the north shoreline of the reservoir on a large peninsula. The NSRA is accessible by vehicle from the west and north via Camp Far West Road and Spenceville Road. The access road is gated and an entrance station is located along the access road that regulates public access to the recreation area. The NSRA consists of a family campground, group campground, day use area with swimming beach, boat ramp and dispersed use areas (Figure 3.2.6-1). The NSRA also includes a general store at the entrance station for use by the public. The NSRA is open year-round for day use and overnight recreation opportunities. The NSRA is set in a partially wooded oak and grassland setting. The oak trees provide substantial shading throughout the recreation area, but especially within the campground facilities. Due to the predominant grasses and lack of other ground-level vegetation, there is minimal screening between the individual sites with the campgrounds and day use areas.



Figure 3.2.6-1. Aerial site map of the North Shore Recreation Area.

Family Campground

The family campground is located in a semi-forested setting along the south shoreline of the NSRA. The facility consists of a total of 80 campsites including 70 standard sites and 10 recreational vehicle (RV) sites with hookups. Representative photographs are provided in Figure 3.2.6-2.

The family campground is comprised primarily of 70 standard campsites with each consisting of a table (i.e., concrete or wood-metal construction), a rock fire ring, a parking spur (i.e., dirt or gravel), several tent pads and a trash can. Most of the sites also have a pedestal grill. Overall, the campsite amenities are in fair condition, with the exception of the remaining wood-metal construction tables and most pedestal grills that are aging and in poor condition. Potable water¹ is provided at seven spigots dispersed throughout the campground. The facility includes two flush restroom buildings each with eight stalls (i.e., 7 toilets and 1 urinal) and four sinks; and both are in aging and in fair-to-poor condition. A typical campsite provides opportunities for tent or RV camping, but does not have hookups for water, electric or sewer. The circulation roads consist of one-way, 10-ft wide and two-way, 20-ft wide road segments; and are a combination of paved and dirt surfacing; and in fair condition overall.

The family campground also includes a RV loop with 10 sites each with full-service hookups including water, electric and sewer. In addition to the hookups, each site consists of a gravel spur, metal table, concrete fire ring, and a trash can. The RV sites do not include a restroom building; however, a restroom is located nearby that serves the standard campsites. The circulation road is a two-way, 20-ft wide paved road. Overall, the RV camping facilities are newer construction and in good condition.



Standard Family Campsite

¹ Currently, temporary drinking restrictions are in place while SSWD completes water treatment infrastructure improvements.



Standard Family Campsite Amenities



Restroom Building



RV Campsite with Full Hookups



Figure 3.2.6-2. Representative photographs (dated 7/21/15) of the family campground at the North Shore Recreation Area.

Group Campground

The group campground is located in an open setting along the west shoreline of the NSRA to the north of the boat ramp and day use area. The facility consists of two group campsites (i.e., Tree and Point sites) serving 25 people at one time (PAOT). Each of the campsites consists of a concrete table, rock fire ring, water spigot, portable chemical toilet, and two trash cans. The access road to the sites is a two-way dirt surface road. Overall, the facilities are aging and in fair-to-poor condition. Representative photographs are provided in Figure 3.2.6-3.



Figure 3.2.6-3. Representative photographs (dated 7/21/15) of the group campsites at the North Shore Recreation Area.

Day Use Area

The day use area is located in a semi-forested setting along the west shoreline of the NSRA to the north of the boat ramp. The facility consists of 20 picnic sites, a swim beach and shares a parking area with the boat ramp. Each picnic site consists of a table and a trash can. Pedestal grills and water spigots are also dispersed throughout the area. The swim beach is located between the picnic sites and the reservoir. The facility includes one flush restroom building with eight stalls (i.e., 7 toilets and 1 urinal) and four sinks. Overall, the facilities are aging and in fair condition. A representative photograph is provided in Figure 3.2.6-4.



Typical Picnic Site



Typical Picnic Site Amenities



Restroom Building

Figure 3.2.6-4. Representative photographs (dated 7/21/15) of the day use area at the North Shore Recreation Area.

Boat Ramp

The boat ramp is located on the south shoreline between the family campground and the day use area. The facility consists of a boat launching ramp, parking area, restroom building and picnic site. The boat ramp is a 4-lane concrete ramp with a floating courtesy dock and a 4-lane boat preparation area. The end of the concrete ramp is at 236.0 ft. elevation; however, informal boat launching is still available down to 188.0 ft. elevation. The parking area is divided into three separate lots, all of which are paved with striped spaces; and provides a total of 82 single vehicle spaces, including two accessible spaces, and 73 vehicle with trailer spaces, including three accessible spaces. At lower water levels, parking is allowed adjacent to the boat ramp in dirt parking areas. The facility includes one flush restroom building with four stalls, each with a toilet and sink. A water spigot, water fountain and trash receptacles are located at the restroom building. The accessible restroom building area includes an accessible picnic table connected by an accessible ramp. This facility was reconstructed in 2005 using a DBOW Boat Launch Facilities grant; and, thus, the facilities are in very good condition. Representative photographs are provided in Figure 3.2.6-5.



Ramp



Parking Area



Restroom and Picnic Site

Figure 3.2.6-5. Representative photographs (dated 7/21/15) of the boat ramp facilities at the North Shore Recreation Area.

Dispersed Use Areas

The NSRA has two dispersed use areas – one located on the northwest (i.e., Jet Ski Cove area) and one on the northeast (i.e., Boss Point area) – portions of the recreation area and accessed by

one-way and two-way dirt roads. These areas allow for dispersed day use and overnight camping, but provide minimal facilities. The Jet Ski Cove dispersed use area has two portable chemical toilets with trash cans dispersed throughout the area. The Boss Point dispersed use area has four chemical toilets and trash cans dispersed throughout the area. In addition, a horse camp is located in the midst of the Boss Point dispersed use area that includes hitch-and-post facilities, two portable chemical toilets and a large concrete fire ring. Overall, the minimal facilities are in good condition. Representative photographs are provided in Figure 3.2.6-6.



Jet Ski Cove Dispersed Use Area



Boss Point Area Dispersed Use Area



Horse Camp

Figure 3.2.6-6. Representative photographs (dated 7/21/15) of the dispersed use areas at the North Shore Recreation Area.

Other Facilities

The NSRA also includes a general store, RV dump station, private ranger residences and maintenance buildings, a water treatment plant and a sewage lagoon. The store is located near the entrance to the NSRA facilities and also serves as the entrance station for the NSRA. The RV dump station is located near the family campground and boat ramp; and provides a 1-lane facility connected to a sewer system for disposing of RV holding tanks. Overall, these facilities are in good condition. Private concessionaire residences are also located between the entrance station and the boat ramp facilities that include residences and maintenance buildings. Photographs of these facilities are provided in Figure 3.2.6-7.



Figure 3.2.6-7. Photographs (dated 7/21/15) of the entrance station and RV dump station at the North Shore Recreation Area.

3.2.6.2.2.2 South Shore Recreation Area

The SSRA is located on the southwest shoreline of the reservoir on a long narrow peninsula. The SSRA is accessible by vehicle from the north and south via McCourtney Road. The access road is gated and an entrance station is located immediately after the gate that regulates public access to the recreation area. The SSRA consists of a family campground, group campsite, day use area, swim beach, boat ramp and dispersed use areas (Figure 3.2.6-8). The SSRA also includes a general store for use by the public located at the entrance station. The SSRA is generally open seasonally from April through October for day use and overnight recreation opportunities.² Similar to the NSRA, the SSRA is set in a partially wooded oak and grassland setting. The oak trees provide substantial shading throughout the recreation area. Due to the predominant grasses and lack of other ground-level vegetation there is minimal screening between the individual sites with the campgrounds and day use areas.

² The NSRA is open year-round for public use.



Figure 3.2.6-8. Aerial site map of the South Shore Recreation Area.

Family Campground

The family campground is located in a semi-forested setting on the north end of the recreation area. The facility consists of 67 standard campsites for either tent or RV camping, but the sites do not provide RV hookups. Each campsite consists of a table (i.e., concrete or wood-metal construction), a rock fire ring, a parking spur (i.e., dirt or gravel), several tent pads and a trash can. Most of the sites also have a pedestal grill. Six of the sites include a pull-through parking spur, whereas the remaining sites utilize back-in parking spurs. Water is provided at 12 spigots dispersed throughout the campground. Overall, the campsite amenities are in good condition, with the exception of the wood-metal construction tables that are aging and in fair-to-poor condition. The facility also includes one flush restroom buildings (i.e., 7 toilets, 1 urinal and 4 sinks) and two vault restroom buildings (i.e., each with 4 toilets), all of which are aging and in fair condition overall. The facility includes two overflow parking areas (paved) for a total of 18 single vehicles. The circulation roads consist of one-way, 12-ft wide, and two-way, 20-ft wide paved roads. The parking areas and roads are in good condition. Representative photographs are provided in Figure 3.2.6-9.



Standard Campsite



Standard Campsite Table



Vault Restroom Building (4 stalls)

Figure 3.2.6-9. Photographs (dated 7/21/15) of the family campground at the South Shore Recreation Area.

Group Campsite

A single group campsite is located in a forested setting on a bluff along the west shoreline of the SSRA. The facility consists of one group campsite serving 50 PAOT; and consists of wood-metal table, large concrete fire ring, large food preparation table/area, a pedestal grill, trash cans and a gravel parking area for 10 vehicles. The access road to the sites is a two-way paved road. A water spigot is located at the start of the access road to the group campsite. Overall, the amenities are aging, but in good condition, with the exception of the wood-metal construction table that is in poor condition. A restroom building is available at the nearby family campground. A representative photograph of the facility is provided in Figure 3.2.6-10.



Group Campsite



Campsite Amenities



Parking Area

Figure 3.2.6-10. Photograph (dated 7/21/15) of the group campsite at the South Shore Recreation Area.

Picnic Area

The picnic area is located in a semi-forested setting along the east shoreline of the SSRA. The facility consists of 33 picnic sites, each with a table, and a parking area for 44 single vehicles. Pedestal grills, water spigots and trash cans are dispersed throughout the area for picnickers. The facility utilizes the boat ramp's flush restroom building (i.e., 7 toilets, 1 urinal and 4 sinks) located at the top of the boat ramp facility. Overall, the facilities are aging but in good condition. Representative photographs of the facilities are provided in Figure 3.2.6-11.



Picnic Area



Picnic Site Amenities



Parking Area

Figure 3.2.6-11. Photographs (dated 7/21/15) of the picnic area at the South Shore Recreation Area.

Swim Beach

The swim beach is located in an open setting along the west shoreline of the SSRA in a cove commonly referred to as “Quarter Mile Cove” (Figure 3.2.6-12). The facility provides direct water access for swimming and other water play activities for the campground visitors. Trash cans are dispersed throughout the area. Overall, the minimal facilities are good condition. The facility utilizes the family campground’s vault restroom buildings located near the swim beach area.



Figure 3.2.6-12. Photograph (dated 7/21/15) of the swim beach at the South Shore Recreation Area.

Boat Ramp

The boat ramp is located on the northeast shoreline between the family campground and the day use area. The facility consists of a boat launching ramp, parking area and restroom building. The boat ramp is a 2-lane concrete and asphalt ramp with a floating courtesy dock. The end of the concrete/asphalt ramp is at 220.0 ft. elevation and boat launching below this level is not advisable. The concrete section of the ramp and the courtesy dock are in good condition; whereas the lower asphalt section of the ramp is in poor condition with eroding edges and extensive cracking. The parking area provides a total of 52 vehicles with trailer spaces in a gravel lot and paved lot paralleling the top of the ramp access road. The parking areas are in good condition. The facility includes one flush restroom building with seven toilets, one urinal and four sinks. The restroom building is in fair condition. Representative photographs of the facilities are provided in Figure 3.2.6-13.



Boat Ramp (concrete section)



Boat Ramp (asphalt section)



Parking Area



Restroom Building

Figure 3.2.6-13. Photographs (dated 7/21/15) of the boat ramp facility at the South Shore Recreation Area.

Dispersed Use Areas

The SSRA has two dispersed use areas located on the west shoreline (“Quarter Mile Cove”) and southeast shoreline adjacent to the entrance station. Both areas are accessed by one-way and two-way dirt roads. These areas allow for dispersed day use and overnight camping, but provide minimal facilities – roads, trash cans and six portable chemical toilets. Overall, the minimal facilities are good condition. Representative photographs of the facilities are provided in Figure 3.2.6-14.



Quarter Mile Cove Area



Area Adjacent to Entrance Station

Figure 3.2.6-14. Photographs (dated 7/21/15) of the dispersed use areas at the South Shore Recreation Area.

Other Facilities

The SSRA also includes a general store, RV dump station, private ranger residences and maintenance buildings and a sewage lagoon. The store is located near the entrance to the SSRA facilities and also serves as the entrance station for the recreation area. A fuel station is also located at the general store. The RV dump station is located across from the general store and provides a 1-lane facility connected to a sewer system for RV holding tank disposal. Overall, these facilities are in good-to-very good condition. Private ranger residences are also located between the entrance station and the boat ramp facilities that include residences and maintenance buildings. Photographs of these facilities are provided in Figure 3.2.6-15.



General Store/Entrance Station



Figure 3.2.6-15. Photographs (dated 7/21/15) of the entrance station and RV dump station at the South Shore Recreation Area.

3.2.6.3 Recreation Facilities and Opportunities Downstream of the Project

Developed recreation facilities do not exist along the Bear River downstream of Camp Far West Dam. The public has limited access for recreational fishing and other activities where public roads run adjacent to or intersect the Bear River (SSWD 2003). The limiting factor for public access is pervasive private lands adjacent to the Bear River.

This reach is not recognized as a whitewater boating reach due to the lack of gradient and whitewater features.

No federal land occurs along the Bear River downstream of the Project.

Private recreational use occurs at the non-Project diversion dam impoundment, where SSWD leases non-Project SSWD-owned land to a local waterskiing club. Access to the area is gated. The site provides private access to the impoundment for recreational uses, primarily waterskiing.

3.2.6.4 Current Project Recreation Use Levels

From 1991 through 2014, the annual recreation use levels at Camp Far West Reservoir have ranged widely from nearly 41,000 Recreation Days (RDs) in 2014 to more than 162,000 RDs in 1998 (Table 3.2.6-2 and Figure 3.2.6-16). In general, a substantial change in the total level of use occurred twice since 1991 – in 1998 and 2013. First, from 1991 through 1997 the total use averaged nearly 76,000 RDs with a range of 57,000 to 100,000 RDs. However, from 1998 through 2012 the total use increased to 146,000 RDs, on average, with a range of 123,000 to 162,000 RDs. Then, in 2013 and 2014, the total use dropped drastically down to 43,000 RDs, on average; ranging from 41,000 to 44,000 RDs, which is likely linked to the extreme drought conditions experienced in these consecutive years.

Table 3.2.6-2. Overnight, day use and total Project recreation use in Recreation Days (1991-2014).

Year	Recreation Days		
	Day Use	Overnight Use	Total Use
1991	71,972	25,956	97,928
1992	64,775	23,360	88,135
1993	63,903	36,198	100,101
1994	40,335	21,818	62,153
1995	36,560	21,250	57,810
1996	40,216	23,375	63,591
1997	41,020	23,843	64,863
1998	84,396	76,982	161,378
1999	84,963	77,246	162,209
2000	84,782	76,994	161,776
2001	79,648	71,893	151,541
2002	78,742	70,964	149,706
2003	78,891	71,648	150,539
2004	78,654	71,648	150,302
2005	79,248	72,164	151,412
2006	74,696	68,461	143,157
2007	74,962	70,486	145,448
2008	64,692	58,791	123,483
2009	65,329	62,524	127,853
2010	70,619	68,491	139,110
2011	69,246	68,931	138,177
2012	67,422	66,783	134,205
2013	22,942	21,864	44,806
2014	21,973	19,461	41,434
Annual Average	52,964	64,166	117,130

Source: State of California, Department of Water Resources (DWR) 1991-2014.

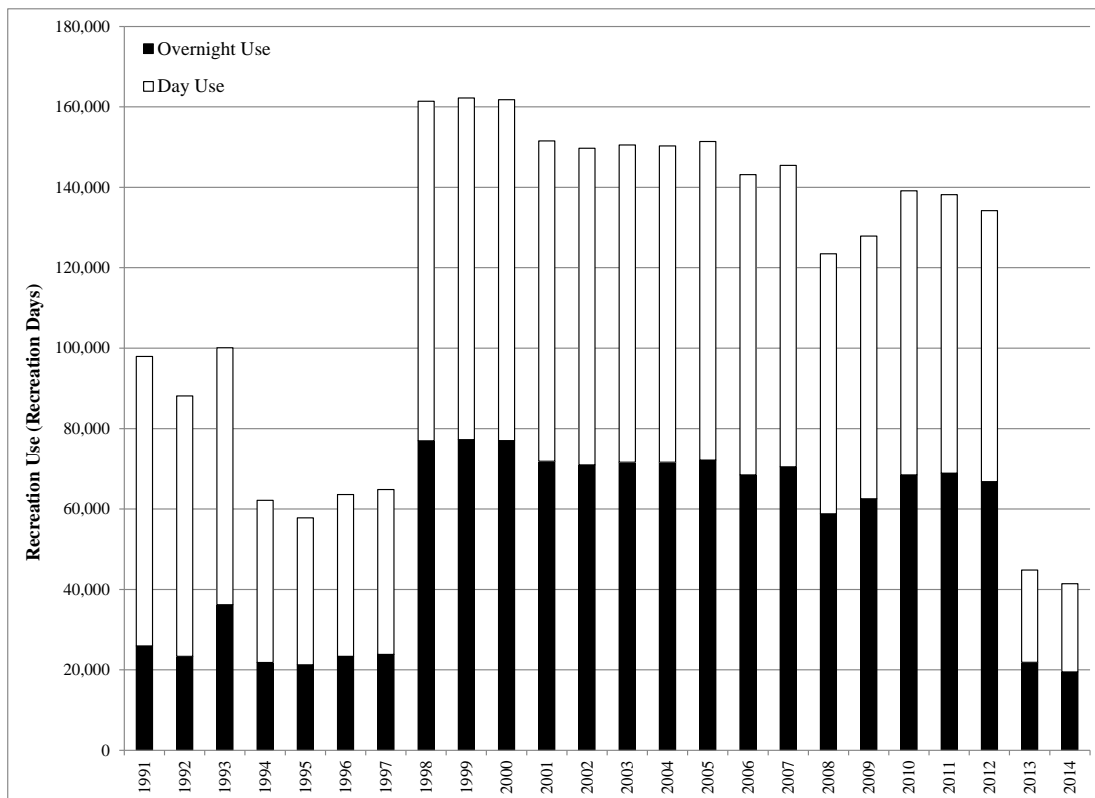


Figure 3.2.6-16. Total Project recreation use in Recreation Days by day use and overnight visitors (1991-2014).

Source: DWR 1991-2014

When comparing day use and overnight use, day use (55%) has accounted for slightly higher levels of use than overnight use (45%) for the entire period from 1991 through 2010. As with total use, the distribution of day use versus overnight use changed in 1998. From 1991 through 1997, the day use-overnight use split averaged 67 percent day use to 33 percent overnight use. However, from 1998 through 2014, the split narrowed significantly to 52 percent day use compared to 48 percent overnight use. Notably, day use and overnight use levels were the closest in 2011 when day use was only 315 RDs (0.2%) greater than overnight use; and farthest apart in 1991 when day use was 46,016 RDs (47.0%) greater than overnight use.

3.2.6.5 Recreation Needs Identified in Management Plans

Management plans that cover recreation resources within the Project Vicinity include the CDPR's SCORP; Placer County and Yuba County general plans; and USFWS Recreational Fisheries Policy. Below is a summary of the recreation needs identified in the management plans applicable to the Project Vicinity.

3.2.6.5.1 Statewide California Outdoor Recreation Plan

This document is discussed generally in Section 1.4.1.11. The 2008 SCORP, among other things, identifies and prioritizes outdoor recreation opportunities and constraints most critical in California. The plan lists the following seven major priority areas that comprise the state's strategy for meeting California's outdoor recreation needs (CDPR 2009):

- Projects that provide opportunities for the top 15 outdoor recreation activities identified in the latent demand scoring in the survey of POAOR in California (Table 3.2.6-3).
- Projects that provide or improve outdoor recreation opportunities in the geographic region.
- Projects that provide outdoor recreation activities for children.
- Projects that provide outdoor recreation opportunities for those underserved communities.
- Projects that support the wetland priorities being pursued by the state's wetland preservation organizations.
- Projects that support the goals of California's Recreation Policy of a) adequacy of recreation; b) opportunities; c) leadership in recreation management; d) recreation's role in a healthier California; e) preservation of natural and cultural resources; and f) accessible recreation experiences.
- Projects that develop the trail corridors identified in the 2002 California Recreational Trails Plan and its scheduled update.

3.2.6.5.2 Public Opinions and Attitudes in Outdoor Recreational Survey in California 2012

This document is discussed generally in Section 1.4.1.9. More specifically regarding recreation, the 2012 Survey on POAOR in California, an element of the SCORP, identify the following as the top 15 recreational activities in California with the highest latent demand (Table 3.2.6-3). These are activities that Californians would participate in, from a statewide perspective, if more facilities and opportunities were provided.

Table 3.2.6-3. California's top 15 recreation activities with high latent demand.

Rank	Activity
1	Picnicking in picnic areas
2	Walking for fitness or pleasure on paved surfaces
3	Camping in developed sites with facilities such as tables and toilets
4	Beach activities
5	Swimming in a pool
6	Day hiking on unpaved trails
7	Attending outdoor cultural events
8	Visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos, gardens or arboretums
9	Shopping at a farmer's market
10	Visiting historic or cultural sites
11	Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery
12	Driving on paved surfaces for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery
13	Swimming in fresh water lakes, rivers and/or streams
14	Jogging and running for exercise (on trails, streets, sidewalks, paths)
15	Bicycling on paved surfaces

Source: CDPR 2014

Of the top 15 activities that Californians would participate in more if available, the Project, specifically Camp Far West Reservoir, provides opportunities in nine of the listed recreational activities to some degree, including the top four activities. These activities include:

- Picnicking in picnic areas
- Walking for fitness or pleasure on paved surfaces
- Camping in developed sites with facilities such as tables and toilets
- Beach activities
- Day hiking on unpaved trails
- Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery
- Swimming in fresh water lakes, rivers and/or streams
- Jogging and running for exercise (on trails, streets, sidewalks, paths)
- Bicycling on paved surfaces

Furthermore, in the POAOR survey, Californians were asked about their willingness to pay for their top recreation activities. Results of the 2012 POAOR found that, in general, respondents

were willing to pay more for activities that required the use of facilities such as picnicking, camping in developed sites and RV/trailer camping. These POAOR findings generally are compatible with the overnight fee schedule at the Project recreation facilities at Camp Far West Reservoir, where appropriate fees are charged for overnight visitation trips associated with facilities and day use activities/facilities (picnicking). Other relevant findings from the 2012 POAOR survey include (CDPR 2014):

- More than two-thirds of Californians reported spending the same (33.2%) or more time (35.2%) in outdoor recreation activities compared to 5 years ago.
- Nearly all respondents (91.6%) had visited a park within the past 12 months. The majority (71.5%) had visited a park within the past month.
- In the past 12 months a majority of respondents visited highly developed parks and recreation areas, developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas, historic or cultural buildings, sites, or areas, and natural and undeveloped areas.
- About three quarters of Californians traveled to parks with family (52.5%) and friends (23.5%), while almost one-third went to parks with both family and friends.
- The respondents would like to participate more often in picnicking (55.1%), walking (37.4%), camping (35.1%), and beach activities (34.6%).
- Over a third (34.7%) of respondents reported utilizing an unpaved trail for hiking, biking, or horseback riding at least once or twice a month or more during the last 12 months. At the same time, 31 percent of respondents reported never using an unpaved trail.
- The respondents were more willing to pay between \$11 to \$50 to picnic and camp than other activities.

3.2.6.5.3 Placer County General Plan

As amended in May 2013, the Placer County General Plan (Placer County 2013) identifies, within its recreation and cultural resource section, the following three goals for maintaining and enhancing recreation resources.

- To develop and maintain a system of conveniently located, properly-designed parks and recreational facilities to serve the needs of present and future residents, employees, and visitors.
- To encourage development of private recreational facilities.
- To develop a system of interconnected hiking, riding, and bicycling trails and paths suitable for active recreation and transportation and circulation.

3.2.6.5.4 Nevada County General Plan

As amended through 1996, the Nevada County General Plan (Nevada County 2013) identifies, within its recreation element, a single goal relevant to maintaining and enhancing recreation resources – to provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities.

3.2.6.5.5 Yuba County General Plan

The Yuba County General Plan identifies Parks and Recreation needs as part of the Land Use, Circulation, Open Space and Conservation Elements of the Plan. In this section, the Plan generally discusses park and recreation needs for the county, which primarily deal with recreational trail needs. Overall, the Yuba County Parks Master Plan addresses the county's recreation goals and needs. Several of the trail needs and goals in the Plan are relevant to the Project, including: 1) to integrate trails for pedestrians, bicycles and equestrian use into development projects; 2) to provide and design trails in conjunction with new development projects in a manner which allows for the eventual development of a countywide trails network which links areas of the county together; and 3) to integrate trails into future recreational sites, including linkages between sites, and linkages between sites and urban areas, where possible (Yuba County 1996).

3.2.6.5.6 Yuba County Parks Master Plan

The ultimate objective of the Yuba County Parks Master Plan (Master Plan, adopted February 19, 2008) is to develop a footprint to direct park development within the county. In general, the Master Plan includes: 1) a set of goals and objectives that can be used to evaluate any new/future projects; and 2) makes recommendations about how to fund new parks and facilities that ensures they remain an asset to the community far into the future. The Master Plan proposes two regional trails that connect or approach the Project Area. First, the Master Plan proposes the "South County Regional Trail" that would connect the Camp Far West Reservoir area to the Plumas Lake area and the Town of Wheatland. Second, the Master Plan proposes the "Camp Far West – Collins Lake Regional Trail" that would connect Camp Far West Reservoir area and adjacent Spenceville Wildlife Area to the Collins Lake area in Yuba County. The Plan identifies this trail segment as a multi-use trail that would provide opportunities for hiking, biking and horseback riding. (Yuba County 2008)

3.2.6.5.7 USFWS Fisheries Recreational Policy

This document is discussed generally in Section 1.4.1.24. The document describes USFWS' recreational fisheries management program. It outlines the following goals:

- Effect the preservation and/or increased productivity of fishery resources.
- Ensure and enhance the quality, quantity, and diversity of recreational fishing opportunities.
- Develop and enhance partnerships between governments and the private sector for conserving and managing recreational fisheries.
- Cooperate to maintain a healthy recreational fisheries industry.

3.2.6.6 Other Regionally or Nationally Significant Recreation Areas in the Project Region

Additional recreation areas within the Project Vicinity and important regional and national recreation areas provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. These include Lake Combie, Rollins Reservoir, Englebright Reservoir, Scotts Flat Reservoir, Folsom Lake, Spenceville Wildlife Area and the California National Historic Trail.

Lake Combie is located to the east of Camp Far West Reservoir approximately 10 mi upstream on the Bear River; and provides opportunities for water skiing, jet skiing, boating, fishing and swimming, primarily for adjacent land owners. Rollins Reservoir is located to the east of Camp Far West Reservoir another 8 mi upstream of Lake Combie on the Bear River; and provides opportunities for developed camping, boating, water skiing, jet skiing, fishing, picnicking and swimming at four developed recreation areas. Englebright Reservoir is located approximately 16 mi to the north of Camp Far West Reservoir on the Yuba River; and provides opportunities for boat-in camping, boating, water skiing, jet skiing, fishing and swimming. Scotts Flat Reservoir is located approximately 35 mi to the northeast of Camp Far West Reservoir on Deer Creek; and provides opportunities for boat-in camping, boating, picnicking, water skiing, jet skiing, fishing and swimming. Folsom Lake is located approximately 30 mi to the southeast of Camp Far West Reservoir on the American River; and provides opportunities for camping, boating, picnicking, water skiing, jet skiing, fishing and swimming. The Spenceville Wildlife Area is located approximately 5 mi to the north of Camp Far West Reservoir; and provides opportunities for fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, dog training, equestrian trail riding, bicycling, seasonal camping, and hunting. The California National Historic Trail runs through the FERC Project Boundary and crosses Camp Far West Reservoir in three locations. This trail is not a Project recreation facility, and is discussed in Section 3.2.7.2.3.

3.2.6.7 Known or Potential Project Effects

Provided below is a list of known or potential Project effects on recreation. The list was developed based on responses to SSWD's PAD Information Questionnaire and SSWD's current understanding of the issues.

- From Responses to SSWD's PAD Information Questionnaire:
 - Effects of Project O&M on recreational access to the reservoir and affected river reaches, particularly for angling (identified by Cal Fish and Wildlife).
- From SSWD:
 - Effects of Project O&M on public access to Project waters, existing recreational opportunities, and future recreational opportunities within the Project Area.
 - Effects of Project O&M, especially reservoir water levels, on recreation.
 - Effects of Project O&M on quality and availability of flow-dependent recreation opportunities.
 - Adequacy of existing Project recreation facilities (including accessible facilities) to meet current and future recreational demands.

3.2.6.8 List of Attachments

There are no attachments to this section.