

San Francisco Region

Philip Scordelis
Fishery Biologist

A. INSPECTION FINDINGS

Requirements (OEP-IT Codes)	Date of Requirement	Follow-up Needed	Photo Nos.
RECREATION RESOURCES			
Article 17 (200) – Allow reasonable, free public access for recreation	03/13/63	No	
Article 42 (113) – Comply with the approved Recreation Plan	04/27/02	No	
Article 46 (113) - Construct, operate, maintain recreation facilities	04/27/92	Yes	1 - 10
Part 8: Publish conditions, install signs, file Form 80	03/13/63	No	
CULTURAL RESOURCES			
Article 28 (184) Conduct archaeological survey and salvage	03/13/63	No	
Paragraph D (169) - Consult with USFS, SHPO on new recreation sites	04/27/92	No	
FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES			
Article 34 (064) - Construct, operate, maintain protective fish devices	03/13/63	No	
Article 34 (148) - Construct, operate, maintain protective wildlife devices	03/13/63	No	
Article 37 (089) - Release specified minimum streamflows at 7 locations	03/18/81	No	
Article 37 (208) - Limit ramping below Oxbow Powerhouse	03/13/63	No	
OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES			
Part 12.4 (139) - Operate, maintain project so that public health protected	03/13/63	No	
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Part 12.42 (218) - Install and maintain public safety devices	03/13/63	No	

Follow-up Action

The licensee was asked to address the following concerns in our inspection follow-up letter dated August 16, 2005:

Hell Hole Reservoir

Several of the stones used to construct the stairs at the Hell Hole Reservoir Overlook were loose and posed a tripping hazard; also, the material used to effect earlier repairs to the stairs (which appears to be a caulking compound) creates a harsh contrast to the original mortar. Grouting the loose stones back into place, and replacement of the caulk with a material similar to the original grout was requested.

The panoramic display at the overlook has weathered and is no longer fully legible. A replacement for the display was requested.

Some campsites at the Big Meadow Campground are located within an archaeological site. Other sites at this campground have been upgraded, but the upgrading of those sites within the archaeological site have been delayed. Information on the cause of the delay and the schedule to complete the upgrades was requested.

Grass has grown around the fire ring at the Hell Hole Family Campground site closest to the lake (site number not observed). Immediate cutting of the grass was requested to eliminate the potential for a wildfire.

French Meadows Reservoir

The planks that provide a crossing of the ephemeral stream at the French Meadows Day-Use Area are worn, out of position, and have several large protruding nails. A plan and schedule to improve this crossing was requested.

The abandoned information kiosk at the new RV sanitary dump poses both a health and safety hazard. A plan and schedule to remove this facility was requested, if there are no plans to refurbish it.

Snow loading has damaged the gate that prevents vehicles from entering the prohibited area at the Prairie Wolf Group Campsite. A schedule to repair or replace this gate was requested.

Immediate removal of the grass that has grown around the fire ring at Site 37 in the Lewis Family Campground was requested.

Not all sites at the Lewis Family Campground have bear-proof food lockers. A camper reported that a bear had entered their vehicle to access food in an ice chest. A schedule to provide bear-proof food lockers at sites in this campground was requested.

The McGuire Point Day-Use Area continues to be a concern, as problems noted during the 2000 Environmental Inspection persist. Trails to access the individual day-use sites are either non-existent or severely overgrown, the legs of one picnic table had sunk into the ground, the informational sign at one entrance was demolished and lying on the ground, multiple piles of cleared brush have been left lying on the ground throughout the area, and vegetation around the cooking stoves is tall enough to pose a wildfire threat. Immediate correction of these deficiencies was requested.

Comments

Mr. Jones mentioned the possible conversion of the McGuire Point Day-Use Area to a group campground by the U. S. Forest Service (USFS). The facility is part of the approved Recreation Plan. Our follow-up letter advised the licensee that before any conversion is undertaken an application to amend the approved Recreation Plan was required, and that the application should include the following:

- Use data that show the need for another group campground at French Meadows Reservoir.
- Design drawings for the proposed group campground.
- Evidence of consultation with the USFS and the California State Historic Preservation Officer.

Management of the recreational facilities at this project is complicated by several levels of oversight. Funds for the facilities were provided by a Davis-Grunsky grant from the State of California in the 1960's. The facilities occupy National Forest land within the project boundary, and the USFS assumed control of their operation and maintenance under a 1965 agreement with the licensee. The licensee reported that a 1998 letter from the USFS stated it could no longer fund operation and maintenance of the facilities and asked if the licensee would take over this responsibility. The licensee is assembling information on this issue and will submit it for our review.

B. EXHIBITS

The following exhibits are provided to show the project location and to document the follow-up actions:

2 figures and 10 photographs

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bcc: Scordelis SFRO

NORTH



Figure 1. Project location map.

NORTH



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Figure 2. Project area map



Photo 1. Original grout and repair material on the stairs to the Hell Hole Reservoir Overlook.



Photo 2. Loose paving stone on the Hell Hole Reservoir Overlook stairs.



Photo 3. Grass surrounding a fire ring at the Hell Hole Campground.



Photo 4. Footbridge providing access to the French Meadows Day-Use Area.



Photo 5. Abandoned informational kiosk at the French Meadows RV Sanitary Dump Station.



Photo 6. Broken gate at the Prairie Wolf Group Campsite.



Photo 7. Overgrown picnic site at the McGuire Point Day-Use Area.



Photo 8. Sunken table at the McGuire Point Day-Use Area.



Photo 9. Broken informational sign at the McGuire Point Day-Use Area.



Photo 10. One of several brush piles in the McGuire Point Day-Use Area.