

Big Creek Collaborative  
Recreational Resources Working Group

February 8, 2005

Final Meeting Notes

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**Time:** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM      **Facilitator:** Bill Pistor  
**Location:** Piccadilly Inn, Fresno      **Coordinator:** Dave Martinez  
**Recorder:** Ryan Bricker

**Participants:**

Bill Pistor	Kearns & West
Ryan Bricker	Kearns & West
Roger Robb	Friant Water Users
Toby Horst	Sierra Resource Conservation District
Katie Horst	SAMS Coalition
Lonnie Schardt	Fresno Fishermen Helpers
Wayne Thompson	Fresno Flyfishers for Conservation, Inc.
Steve Haze	San Joaquin River Trail Council
Mark Newquist	SCE
Geoff Rabone	SCE
Dudy Haupt	Shaver Lake Point Homeowner
Ardynne Shelton	Shaver Lake Point Homeowner
Cindy Whelan	U.S. Forest Service
Dave Martinez	MTZ Associates (ENTRIX)
Martin Ostendorf	ENTRIX
Maureen Barile	Huntington Lake Big Creek Historical Conservancy
Annette Lambert	U.S. Forest Service

**Phone:** John Gangemi      American Whitewater Affiliation

**Introductions and Agenda Review**

The meeting opened with a round of introductions and the review and approval of the day's agenda.

Lonnie Schardt (Fresno Fishermen Helpers) informed the group that the name of the organization he is representing is now Fresno Fishermen Helpers.

**Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2005 Meeting**

Bill Pistor (Kearns & West) then asked the group if anyone had comments or edits to the January meeting summary. There were no comments and the meeting summary was approved.

**Review Action Items from January 11, 2005 Meeting**

The group then reviewed the action items from the January RWG.

Regarding AIs #1, #3, and #4 Martin Ostendorf (ENTRIX) informed the group that the list of outstanding items from the REC DTSRs, Recreation Resource Information Matrix (RIM), and the

matrix process overview, or guide/instruction manual for how the PRIM will work should be available within the next two weeks.

#### **Discuss the Potential Resource Issue Matrix (PRIM) and Back-up**

Cindy Whelan (U.S. Forest Service) distributed a handout containing USFS comments to the recreation PRIM and explained that after review of the PRIM and Study Reports the USFS is now ready to move on to items that have yet to be addressed, which they believe to be the substantive items. Dave Martinez (MTZ Associates) replied that he agreed that the elements yet to be addressed will be important as they all have to do with the actual development of the PM&Es. After brief discussion by the group, Bill clarified that the Recreation Resources Working Group would continue to review the PRIM as necessary in order to ensure all the potential conflict and impact indicators are identified to help the group transition to the next phase, which is PM&E development. He added that the USFS comments simply state that they are comfortable with the areas identified for potential resource issue and are ready to move on to PM&E development, but they are not saying that all others organizations are necessarily ready to move on.

Dave then initiated a presentation and discussion on the PRIM. Specific edits resulting from the meeting discussion will be included and called out in future iterations of the PRIM. The group first discussed whitewater resources. Dave reviewed the column headings, subject reaches, color schemes, and current assessments with the group. After the group was comfortable with the whitewater indicators, focus was shifted to whitewater-related roads. Maureen Barile (Huntington Lake Big Creek Historical Conservancy) asked if snow-cover should be included in the PRIM as a potential impact as it can lead to access problems. Dave answered that the group is really just dealing with operational issues rather than weather conditions and it was determined by the group that no changes were necessary.

After a brief break, Maureen informed the group that in the recent meeting summary, the name of her organization was mislabeled and clarified that the correct title is, "Huntington Lake Big Creek Historical Conservancy."

The group then resumed discussion on the PRIM, looking specifically the Florence Lake Boat Ramp. Per USFS comments, Dave suggested a global language modification to the column heading relating to facility conditions so that it reads, "Facility Rehabilitation or Upgrade Required within the term of the License."

The group then reviewed recreation, angling and trailheads. When reviewing trailheads, Steve Haze (San Joaquin River Trail Council) asked why the John Muir and Pacific Crest Trails were not included with the Dutch Crater listing. Dave responded that he believed that it was intended for the title, "Day Use Area at Florence Lake" to include the John Muir and PCT as well, but after brief discussion it was decided that for clarification purposes, since the Dutch Crater, John Muir, and PCT all have connections with the same trailhead, the facility would be referred to as the Florence Lake Trailhead, which would cover all trails associated with that point of origin.

Steve then asked for clarification on the definition of a trailhead and whether locations where sections of trail intersect with SCE service roads constitute a trailhead. He also asked where these locations would be discussed if not under trailheads, as these roads could potentially impact the trails. Dave agreed that those types of situations could certainly pose potential issues and suggested that the group deal with them under the trailheads column when looking at roads.

The group then moved on to look at Winter Recreation and Huntington Lake resources. Cindy informed the group that the USFS has been looking into designing a picnic area at the Huntington Lake Boat Ramp. To capture this, a note was added to the Reservoir Recreation category under Huntington Lake stating "USFS interest in developing day-use." Dave then continued to review the remaining Huntington Lake Boat Ramp issues with the group, including day-use interest (angling) with Dam 3 Parking area, which was changed to a "-."

The group began discussion on trailheads. Cindy pointed out to the group that there was not any reference in the PRIM to the Huntington Lake Shoreline Trail, which was discussed in REC 13. The group discussed whether the Huntington Lake Shoreline Trail would qualify for consideration and developed four criteria for consideration of a trail for potential resource issues. The criteria were as follows:

1. The resource is a project trailhead;
2. The trail coexists with a project road;
3. The resource is a developed trail within the FERC boundary;
4. The Trail intersects with a project road.

After a brief break Bill clarified for the group that when reviewing the PRIM everyone should be trying to make sure their areas of concern have been captured as places with potential resource issues. The next phase of the process will be to look at these locations identified, determine project nexus, and develop PM&Es. Martin added that it would be good for organizations to write a rationale statement for the improvements that they would like to see.

The group briefly commented on the Eastwood Visitors Center, which was identified as an area of potential resource issues and assigned the comment "HLBCHS has an interest to improve interpretive exhibits and programming." The resource title in the PRIM was also renamed Eastwood Visitor Center/Eastwood Overlook.

The group then moved on to discuss Shaver Lake. Lonnie asked where conflicts between angling and water skiing were captured. Dave responded that they were captured under angling for the actual water body itself under the reservoir category.

Dudy Haupt (Shaver Lake Point Homeowner) spoke to the group about her concerns with SCE's intent on building a trail from the dam to the marina based on recommendations/direction from FERC. She said that the trail could open up the lakefront to vandalism, trash, and noise. She informed the group of a past vandalism incident and said that she anticipates the vandalism will increase. Dave suggested that the group capture her concern as "Concern of increased public access on private property around the lake."

Ardynne Shelton (Shaver Lake Point Homeowner) told the group about her concerns with SCE cutting trees in front of her house as a result of wall erosion where SCE previously carried out cutting activities. It was decided that this concern would fall under the "concern of increased public access on private property around the lake," as well.

The group then discussed boat docks and the regulation of them. The concerns were captured as "Numbers, location, and configuration of boat docks," and as "User conflicts."

Ardynne had a question regarding the responsibility for trees falling on others' property. Bill suggested that tree-related issues should be brought to the Land Management Group and Martin agreed to follow-up as necessary in the LMWG.

The group then moved on to Mammoth Pool Reservoir. The group discussed concerns with emergency access as well as the consideration of China Bar Boat Camp as a possible Trailhead, since it serves as a point of access to a nearby trail.

Bill suggested that everyone review the PRIM and notify ENTRIX of any outstanding areas of concern as quickly as possible so the PRIM can be updated and redistributed.

### **February 8, 2005 Action Items**

- Martin to contact Steve Haze regarding GPS and trail access point coordinates.

- Working Group to review road section of PRIM in light of the 4 criteria discussed at the 2/8 Recreation Working Group meeting.
- Martin to identify tree falling liability for Land Management Working Group PRIM.
- When revised, updated PRIM to be sent to Wayne Thompson by mail.