

Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project

FERC No. 1388

Welcome!

Using the chat, please write your name, organization, and a new habit or hobby from Social Distancing that you will continue doing

RECREATION AND LAND USE RESOURCES

Technical Working Group Meeting

Safety Moment



Lee Vining Relicensing TWG Team

SCE Team

Matthew Woodhall
Project Manager

Martin Ostendorf
Senior Manager

Seth Carr
Operations Manager

Lyle Laven
Production Manager

Consultant Team

Finlay Anderson
Project Manager

Shannon Luoma
Deputy PM

Kelly Larimer
Project Director

Carissa Shoemaker
TWG Coordinator

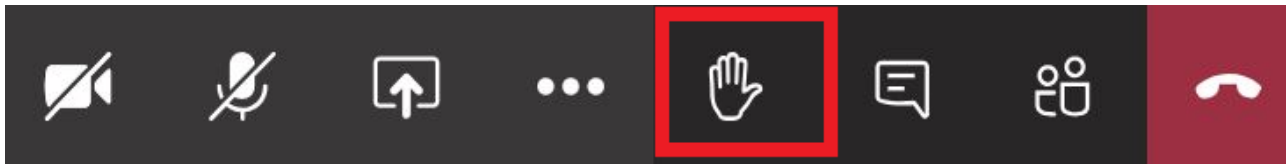
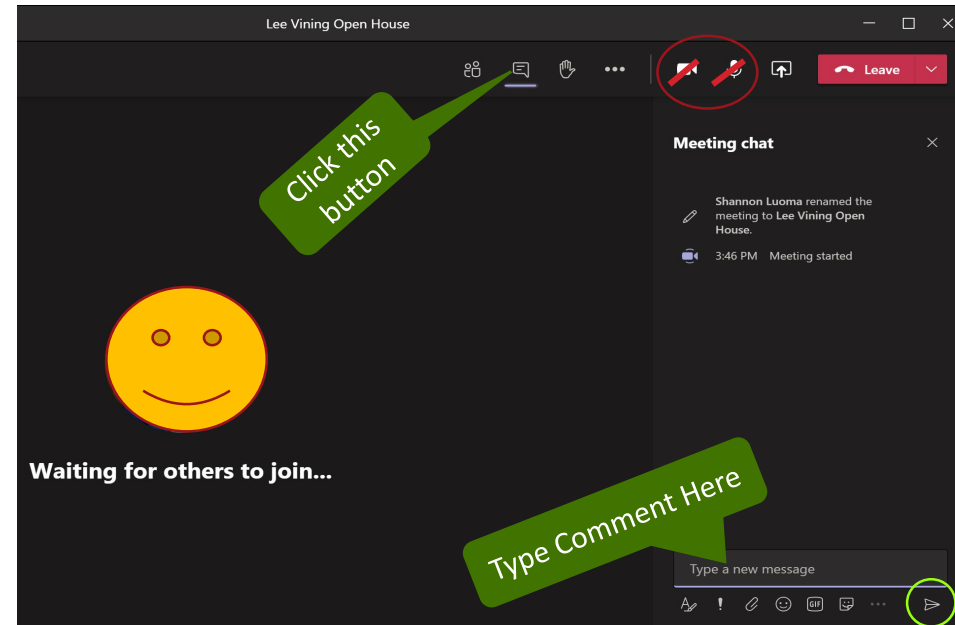
Matt Harper
Recreation/ Land Use
TWG Lead

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
 - Safety Moment
 - Review of March TWG notes
 - Meeting goals
- Discussion of Study Plans
 - Recreation Use and Needs Evaluation
 - Existing Recreation Facilities Condition
 - Project Boundary, Lands, and Roads
 - Visual Quality Assessment
- Schedule, Next Steps, Action Items
 - Next TWG date(s), TBD as needed
 - Other action items
- Final Questions

Meeting Tips and Guidelines

- Please wait to be called on and then unmute your line
 - Introduce yourself (name and affiliation) prior to speaking
- Listen and respect each other
- Stay on topic
- Ask a question by typing it into the chat box during the presentation or by using the raise your hand feature



Review of March TWG notes

- Discussed proposed studies
- USFS was working on their requests and gave an update, providing a new Visual survey request
- Road pullouts and their nexus, some aspects will be captured in currently proposed studies
- USFS National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) survey data usage
- Seasonality of surveys

Review of March TWG action items

- USFS will provide their study requests, provided study requests end of April

Potential Studies for Other Resource Areas

- Aquatics
 - Reservoir Fish Populations
 - Stream Fish Populations
 - Aquatic Habitat Mapping and Sediment Characterization
 - Aquatic Invasive Plants and Algae
 - Stream and Reservoir Water Quality Assessment
 - Hydro Operations Model

Potential Studies for Other Resource Areas (continued)

- Terrestrial and Botanical
 - General Wildlife and Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) Species
 - Botanical (RTE, invasive, and riparian)
- Cultural and Tribal
 - Cultural Study
 - Tribal Study

Cross-over: Will coordinate to assess the impact of Project-induced recreation to Tribally significant trails.

Recreation and Land Use Resources: Proposed Studies

USFS Proposed Goals and Objectives - Accepted

- Recreation Use Assessment
 - Dispersed use assessments will be expanded to include the areas surrounding each Project reservoir (Ellery, Saddlebag, and Tioga), including the previously discussed pullouts adjacent to the reservoirs, use at the back end of Saddlebag, and use at Ellery outlet and waterfall. This would also include an assessment of public vehicle access in the lakebed, as mentioned under the facilities study request.
 - Recreation use assessments will account for both summer and winter activities.
 - Recreation use assessments will be designed to obtain information regarding kayaking at the lakes.
- Facilities Condition Assessment
 - Condition assessments will include an assessment of sign inventory, fishing line disposal stations, and litter disposal. The need for interpretive signage and expansion of campgrounds will be part of the discussions following fieldwork.
- Project Boundary and Lands
 - Some requests made under facilities condition assessments for analysis of access roads may be more appropriate under this study, following the delineation of Project roads. This assessment will determine, in consultation with the USFS, which roads or trails are used predominantly for Project operations.
 - Review of Project lands and current/proposed operations will include an assessment of staging areas, materials storage sites, and use of borrow pits.
 - The Project map that was hosted on SCE's relicensing website was an older version that has since been replaced with the USFS' updated wilderness boundaries since corrections were made. This is the data used in all current PAD documents and that will be used moving forward.
- Visual Quality Assessment
 - SCE agrees to perform a visual quality assessment based on the study request and examples provided by the USFS.

Recreation and Land Use Resources:

Generally Proposed Study Areas for Recreation Use, Facilities Condition, and Dispersed Use

Study Areas Proposed by USFS	Specific Sites <i>(not exhaustive of some site-specific requests)</i>		SCE Response
Project Reservoirs (Saddlebag, Ellery, Tioga)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saddlebag Lake DUA, Campground, Trailhead Tioga lake Overlook Info Site, Tioga Lake Campground, Glacier Canyon Trailhead Ellery Lake Campground Dispersed use around reservoirs (camping, pull-outs, user trails) 		SCE will perform Recreation Use and Facilities Condition assessments at developed sites adjacent to Project reservoirs. Dispersed Use assessments will be conducted around Project reservoirs, including camping areas and pullouts identified in previous TWG meetings.
Facilities/Use along Lee Vining and Glacier Creeks; Saddlebag Lake and Poole Powerhouse Roads; and Highway 120	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sawmill Walk-In Campground Carnegie Station Trailhead Junction Campground Bennettville Trailhead Gardisky Lake Trailhead Nunatak-Tioga Tarns Trailhead Nunatak Nature Trail Warren Fork Trailhead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big Bend Campground Aspen Grove Campground Boulder Campground Moraine Campground Lower Lee Vining Campground Cattleguard Campground Dispersed use around creeks and other USFS facilities 	SCE does not consider these facilities or uses to have a Project nexus but does agree that they are worth exploring further. SCE proposes to utilize the first study season for user surveys at these locations – particularly campgrounds – to determine if there is any substantial connection to use at Project facilities. This information would be used to determine which sites warrant broader studies (RUNS, Facilities Condition, Dispersed Use) in a second study season but would not imply that they are ultimately related to Project operations.

Recreation and Land Use Resources: Proposed Studies

Recreation Use Assessment

- Objectives (*General, until specific study sites are known*)
 - Characterize existing recreation opportunities and visitation.
 - Characterize existing recreation visitor characteristics, needs, and preferences.
 - Estimate future Project-related recreational demand and needs, including the need for additional recreation facility and access enhancements or enforcement actions.
 - Assess consistency of current recreation opportunities with the Desired Conditions, Goals, Standards, and Guidelines described in the Land Management Plan for the Inyo National Forest (USDA 2018).

Recreation and Land Use Resources: Follow-up Questions for Recreation Use Assessment

USFS Comment	SCE Response
<p>Include use of Saddlebag Lake water taxi service in study analysis.</p>	<p>What aspect of the water taxi service would be analyzed? Review level of use, effects of that use on the environment such as back end of Saddlebag Lake, effects of Project on that use?</p>
<p>Include the following site-specific recreation activities in the study design: Ellery Lake access to Ellery Bowl for backcountry skiing and climbing...</p>	<p>What is the primary interest for Ellery Bowl? Quantify use? Safety concerns? Plans to formalize?</p>

Recreation and Land Use Resources: Proposed Studies

Existing Facilities Condition Assessment

- Objectives *(General, until specific study sites are known)*
 - Conduct a facility inventory and condition assessment at existing recreation facilities and associated parking areas, including an evaluation of signage and public safety features.
 - Assess the carrying capacity and potential need for expansion, or alteration of existing recreation facilities.
 - Assess the condition and potential for universal accessibility, where feasible.
 - Identify existing dispersed or informal use areas, including documentation of existing conditions.
 - Assess the consistency of current facilities with the Desired Conditions, Goals, Standards, and Guidelines described in the Land Management Plan for the Inyo National Forest (USDA 2019).

Recreation and Land Use Resources: Follow-up Questions for Facilities Condition Assessment

USFS Comment	SCE Response
<p>Evaluate the relationship between flood damage to campgrounds in lower Lee Vining Canyon and project operations.</p>	<p>Is there a specific event or events that occurred and caused damage to these facilities? Or is this a re-occurring event? We would like to discuss the background here to determine if a study is needed and whether it belongs as part of the facilities condition assessment or in a separate, operations-related study.</p>

Recreation and Land Use Resources: Proposed Studies

Project Boundary and Roads

- Objectives
 - Identify which roads or access trails are used predominantly for access to and maintenance of the Project.
 - Inventory and assess the condition of those identified Project-related roads and trails, including the potential need for improvements.
 - Identify if any additional Project lands may be needed for operation of the Project, including lay down and spoil areas.
 - Determine if any Project facilities or lands will be removed over the term of a new license.
 - Confirm land ownership and amount of federal lands are accurately represented.
 - Identify existing agreements related to maintenance of those roads and trails.

Recreation and Land Use Resources: Follow-up Questions for Project Boundary and Roads

USFS Comment	SCE Response

Recreation and Land Use Resources: Proposed Studies

Visual Quality Assessment

- Objectives
 - Inventory and assess visual resources for current Project facilities and operations and maintenance activities.
 - Conduct a GIS viewshed analysis to determine portions of landscapes that are within view of Project facilities from identified Key Observation Points (KOP).
 - Identify representative KOPs from which Project facilities are visible.
 - Document the existing visual character of Project facilities and features from affected viewsheds.
 - Assess the consistency of existing Project facilities and activities with the Desired Conditions, Goals, Standards, and Guidelines described in the Land Management Plan for the Inyo National Forest (USDA 2019), as well as the Scenery Management System (SMS), the assigned Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs), and the Built Environment Image Guide (BEIG).

Recreation and Land Use Resources: Follow-up Questions for Visual Quality Assessment

USFS Comment	SCE Response
<p>From March TWG: USFS to check for additional information regarding a baseline assessment.</p>	<p>Was the USFS able to find a baseline visual study/assessment for the area as part of the development of the 2019 Land Management Plan?</p>
<p>From March TWG: We want to look at impacts of development in general in the canyon, perhaps both USFS and SCE facilities.</p>	<p>We would like to further discuss the scope of this study. It sounds like a collaborative study that will address both Project and non-Project needs. Results of the study should be clear on responsibilities. Selection of KOPs would be collaborative and consistent with this broader framework.</p>

Recreation and Land Use Resources

- Questions
- Do you have information you want to share with us?
- Proposed next TWG date: TBD, as needed

RELICENSING SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Relicensing Process Schedule

(subject to change depending on relicensing process)

Date	Activity
August 2, 2021	SCE Files Notice of Intent/Pre-Application Document (NOI/PAD)
September 2021	FERC initiates Tribal consultation
September – October 2021	<i>If ILP:</i> FERC issues Notice of Commencement and Scoping Document 1 (SD1) and hosts scoping meeting/site visit <i>If TLP:</i> FERC approves use of TLP
October 2021	Public Meeting to discuss PAD and NOI
October/November 2021	Stakeholders file comments on NOI/PAD and request studies
November 13, 2021	SCE files proposed Study Plans
January 2022	SCE hosts Study Plan Meeting
April 2022	Revise Study Plans as appropriate
Spring/Summer 2022-2023	Conduct field studies
September 3, 2024	SCE Files Draft License Application
January 31, 2025	SCE Files Final License Application

How to Stay Involved

- Check the Project website for updates/news at www.sce.com/leevining
- You can view other SCE relicensing Projects at www.sce.com/regulatory/hydro-licensing
- Sign-up to receive Project-related emails through the Contact Registration Form/Project Questionnaire on the Project website
- Participate in an ongoing TWG
- Sign up for FERC's for e-subscription (docket number "P-1388") at www.ferc.gov
- Email Carissa Shoemaker with questions carissa.shoemaker@erm.com



Thank you!