



SUSITNA-WATANA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Recreation & Aesthetics TWG Meeting February 25, 2013



Review of 2012 Recreation Resources Study

- Defining the Study Area
- Study Methods Overview
 - Preliminary recreation analysis
 - Preliminary recreation supply, demand and use baseline
 - Preliminary recreation facilities and carrying capacity
 - Recreation survey data collection planning

Review of 2012 Recreation Resources Study

- Site Visit/Reconnaissance (July 25-28)
 - Familiarization of Upper Susitna River corridor and trail network (boat/helicopter)
 - Assessed recreation facilities, use areas, and access points (Parks & Denali Hwy subset)
 - Identification recreation opportunities and users
 - Identification of intercept survey locales

Review of 2012 Recreation Resources Study

- Executive Interviews
 - Informal interviews of key individuals
 - Executive interview protocol developed and reviewed with TWG
 - Compiled executive interview candidates list, including contact information

Review of 2012 Recreation Resources Study and Study Planning

- Survey Sampling and Instrument Designs
 - Incident Observation Survey
 - Recreation Use Intercept Survey and Intercept Site Observational Tallies
 - Regional Residents Households Mail Survey

FERC Study Plan Determination

FERC Modifications	Response
Modify study area to include ¼ mile W. of Parks Hwy and N. of Denali Hwy	Included in study area
Include “Guided/Unguided” component in intercept and mail survey	Included in both surveys
Define “party size” in intercept and mail survey	Included in both surveys
Add 1+ questions addressing user conflict in the intercept and mail survey	Included in both surveys
Remove “Don’t Know” and “Refused” from intercept survey	DK and Ref. code blocks removed from the online survey
Intercept surveys should be conducted through all fall and winter months of 2013-2014	Fielding to be extended to March 2014
Allow for a 15-day TWG review period; then file final intercept and mail survey instruments by April 15	A 15 day review period has been scheduled for these survey instruments with survey instruments filed by April 15 th .
Trails mapped at a scale of 1:24,000	Trails in immediate Project area will be mapped at 1:24,000
Include in initial study report any proposed modifications to study plan based on Y1’s data on lower river uses, hydrology, and ice processes	Any proposed modifications will be included in initial study report

Recreation Survey Schedule

- March 7, 2013- post draft final intercept and mail survey
- March 15-16, 2013- pretesting intercept survey in Talkeetna
- March 22, 2013 – comments due on intercept and mail surveys
- March 29, 2013 – final intercept and mail survey filed with FERC.

Final Draft Recreation Users Intercept Survey Instrument

- Interdisciplinary Coordination
 - Aesthetics, River Flow, Socioeconomics, Social Conditions and Public Goods and Services, Transportation
- Final Draft Intercept Survey Instrument
 - *Walk-through of intercept survey instrument with accompanying maps and Observational Tally*
- Status of Pre-testing