

***Boundary Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2144)***

***Recreation Resource Management Plan  
Annotated Outline***

**Seattle City Light**

**April 2009**



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# **Recreation Resource Management Plan Annotated Outline Boundary Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2144)**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

This document is an annotated outline of the proposed Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP), which is intended to guide and facilitate the management of existing and future recreation resources associated with the Boundary Hydroelectric Project (Project) (FERC Project No. 2144). The RRMP, which will be developed collaboratively with the Recreation Resource Workgroup (RRWG), will describe an “umbrella” protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) package for Project recreation resources. The RRMP will address Seattle City Light’s (SCL) recreation resource roles and responsibilities for the Project for the term of the new FERC license; it will not address management or resource commitments for other entities. The RRMP will define a vision of the desired future condition for recreation resources in the Project area, establish long-term goals and objectives for managing recreation resources, and identify both site-specific actions and broader programmatic measures.

### **1.1. Purpose and Scope**

This section will describe the purpose and scope of the RRMP. In general, the purpose of the RRMP will be to specify SCL’s role, and responsibilities in managing existing and future recreation resources associated with the Project. This section will also delineate the geographic area that will be addressed by the RRMP (likely the area within the Project boundary).

### **1.2. Content and Organization**

This section will provide a summary overview of the primary RRMP sections.

### **1.3. Resolution of Conflicting Guidance**

This section will clarify how potential future conflicts or ambiguity in implementing the RRMP will be addressed. Where differing guidance may exist from different sources, priority guidance will be identified.

### **1.4. Baseline Project Recreation Conditions**

#### **1.4.1. Project Recreation Development and Use Levels**

This section will briefly summarize existing Project-related recreation development and use levels. The intent is to describe the baseline recreation conditions at the issuance of the new license.

## **1.4.2. Project Operations**

This section will describe how Project operations relate to recreation resource opportunities. It will describe SCL's proposed forebay water surface elevations, including peak recreation season (Memorial Day through Labor Day) forebay water surface elevation restrictions that will benefit public access and use of the reservoir.

## **2 ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, COMMUNICATION, AND COORDINATION**

### **2.1. Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **2.1.1. Seattle City Light**

SCL's roles and responsibilities as the primary entity responsible for implementation of the RRMP will be described in this section.

#### **2.1.2. Recreation Resource Workgroup**

The RRMP will call for the development of a Recreation Resource Workgroup (RRWG), composed of agency and other stakeholder representatives, to help provide coordination, review, and guidance of RRMP implementation actions. This section will describe the roles and responsibilities of members of the RRWG, in particular those who may also have a shared role in the implementation of recreation resource actions at the Project.

### **2.2. Communication and Coordination**

This section will describe a process for making coordinated, timely, and informed decisions while implementing the RRMP, including how SCL will coordinate and communicate its RRMP implementation actions with members of the RRWG and others. Because of simultaneous implementation of multiple resource management plans (i.e., cultural, terrestrial, fish and aquatics, etc.), cross-resource communication will be necessary. An important goal of this communication will be to achieve a balanced integration of resource goals in the Project area. Coordination processes may include:

- Clarifying resource goals, objectives, and priorities
- Ongoing consultation with relevant resource groups and other entities
- Sharing information used to make resource decisions
- Solving problems and resolving issues

This section will also describe any ongoing implementation activities that may require the need for coordinated environmental or cultural resource analyses, compliance and approval actions, and permitting needed for ground disturbing or in-water recreation construction projects.

Additionally, this section will describe SCL's potential participation and coordination with agencies and other stakeholders in the region to help define the feasibility of a designated water trail along the Pend Oreille River. SCL's role will be confined to the Project area, if a water trail

is determined to be practicable. SCL will coordinate any future water trail-related actions with other entities, as needed.

### **2.2.1. Meetings**

This section will define the process for initiating and convening periodic meetings. These periodic meetings will provide an opportunity for SCL to update members of the RRWG regarding the ongoing status of SCL decision-making and implementation of the RRMP.

### **2.2.2. Annual Report and Work Plan**

This section will describe the annual reporting process regarding implementation of the RRMP. Annual reporting and planned actions will be described in a Recreation Action and Work Plan. The Recreation Action and Work Plan will likely include an overview of completed activities in the previous calendar year and planned activities in the next year. The Recreation Action and Work Plan is meant to help communicate progress made and to help facilitate SCL's efforts to plan for and track RRMP implementation actions and measures. The Recreation Action and Work Plan will be made available for review by the RRWG on an annual basis. The Recreation Action and Work Plan will be filed with FERC following review and comment by the RRWG. A draft template for the Recreation Action and Work Plan will be included as Appendix 3.

FERC Form 80 reporting requirements every six years will be coordinated with the annual reporting process.

### **2.2.3. Periodic Review and Update of the RRMP**

This section will describe the process and frequency of periodic reviews (e.g., every 10 - 15 years) and potential revisions to the RRMP over time for efficiency and continuity purposes. Recreation and resource conditions may change over time. It is possible that unforeseen recreation needs, changes in visitor preferences and attitudes, new recreation technologies, or other actions will arise over the course of the new license term. As a result, the RRMP, or portions thereof, may be updated and/or revised. Revision of the RRMP will require that changes be documented and reviewed with the RRWG. Following review and comment by the RRWG, the revised RRMP will be filed with FERC.

## **3 PROJECT VISION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

This section will describe the overall vision (or desired future conditions) and goals and objectives for Project-related recreation.

### **3.1. Project Vision**

This section will present the Project vision that will guide recreation development and management. Once finalized, the Project vision included in the Recreation Needs Analysis will be adopted for the RRMP.

### **3.2. Goals and Objectives**

This section will establish goals and objectives for managing recreation resources at the Project.

## **4 RECREATION RESOURCE PROGRAMS**

The following sections will describe the programs that are intended to help guide recreation management under the new FERC license.

### **4.1. Recreation Facility Capital Improvements**

This section will describe the program for new and/or enhanced Recreation Facility Capital Improvements at the Project to help meet existing and future recreation facility needs identified in the Project area.

This section will also discuss general design guidelines and siting criteria that will be used to preserve or enhance the aesthetic/visual resources in the Project area. Examples may include:

- Designing and siting recreation facilities and associated structures to blend in with the natural environment of the Project area through proper siting and the use of appropriate building materials and earth-tone colors
- Selecting sustainable design solutions (e.g., appropriate construction practices, durability, safe [non-toxic]/non-leeching materials, minimize operations costs, site and environmental suitability, etc.)
- Complying with public health and safety codes and regulations
- Providing design continuity and consistency with existing facility development where appropriate
- Minimizing facility and site deterioration and operations and maintenance costs
- Minimizing impacts and protecting the natural and cultural environment

#### **4.1.1. Planned Recreation Facility Capital Improvements**

This section will describe new, expanded, and/or renovated recreation facilities that will be constructed and funded by SCL. Conceptual site drawings and designs will be provided in Appendix 4. This section will describe how Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessibility will be addressed during the planning and design phase of new/enhanced recreation sites.

#### **4.1.2. Recreation Facility Capital Improvement – Schedule and Funding**

This section will provide a general schedule and estimated funding levels for recreation facility capital improvement projects. More specific funding levels and construction project timeframes may be reconfirmed during annual planning and coordination meetings following issuance of the new license.

## **4.2. Annual Recreation Facility Operations and Maintenance**

This section will describe SCL's recreation facility operations and maintenance (O&M) responsibilities.

### **4.2.1. Annual Operations and Maintenance Schedule and Funding**

This section will describe SCL's annual O&M schedule and funding at Project recreation sites. This section may also describe cost-sharing and/or fund leveraging processes, if applicable.

### **4.2.2. Annual Operations and Maintenance Standards**

This section will describe a process for codifying O&M standards to be used at Project-related recreation sites and use areas (to help ensure implementation consistency). It will also describe periodic review and revisions to the standards. Specific O&M standards will be included as Appendix 5.

## **4.3. Recreation Monitoring**

This section will describe SCL's role in conducting periodic monitoring of recreation resources in the Project area. Monitoring will be used as a tool to address changes over time and to identify if management actions may be needed. A modified Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC)-type monitoring methodology will be used. This approach will define the desired type of visitor experience to be provided and will establish monitoring indicators and standards that will be used over time to assess whether the desired visitor experience has been maintained.

### **4.3.1. Monitoring Schedule**

This section will describe the schedule for monitoring activities at the Project. Monitoring keyed to every (6 year) or every other (12 year) FERC Form 80 reporting cycle is likely.

### **4.3.2. Monitoring Indicators and Standards**

This section will establish appropriate monitoring indicators and standards. Indicators identify the key conditions to monitor over time; standards define acceptable levels of impact for each indicator. Specific monitoring techniques may be briefly discussed in this section but will generally be developed at the time of monitoring activities.

## **4.4. Multi-Resource Interpretation and Education**

This section will discuss SCL's multi-resource interpretation and education (I&E) program role within the Project area. A final I&E program with construction-level detail will be developed following license issuance. The purpose of the I&E program will be to provide enhanced experiences for visitors, encourage participation in multi-resource protection measures by area visitors, and promote cooperative, safe behaviors to benefit all Project area resources and visitors.

This program will be built around prominent I&E themes found in the Project area, resource management goals, visitor health and safety goals, and enhancement of the visitor and resident experience at the Project. Potential I&E themes will be coordinated with other I&E programs in the region to provide continuity and to avoid overlap and may include the following: wayfinding, water trail, cultural/historical resources, scenic byway, geologic resources, renewable energy, dam engineering, terrestrial resources, fish and aquatic resources, visitor management and rules, and Project operations and public safety. In addition to themes, the I&E program will identify media, sites, and services to be provided. It is expected that key resource groups and agencies and other stakeholders will have input into the development of the I&E program.

#### **4.4.1. Interpretation and Education Schedule and Funding**

This section will provide a general schedule for implementation of I&E-related actions at the Project.

#### **4.4.2. Interpretive Themes**

This section will identify and describe potential themes and messages for the I&E program. It is anticipated that this section will include not only recreation-related themes, but also other themes as noted previously.

#### **4.4.3. Identification of Sites for New/Enhanced Interpretation and Education Opportunities**

This section will identify specific sites for I&E opportunities.

#### **4.4.4. Interpretation and Education Design Guidelines and Sign Standards**

This section will discuss general design guidelines for I&E-related facilities.

### **5 REFERENCES**

This section will list all references and literature cited in the RRMP.

- Appendix 1 Stakeholder Consultation**
- Appendix 2 Existing Project Recreation Sites and Use Areas**
- Appendix 3 Preliminary Annual Recreation Action and Work Plan Template**
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