PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST
Hydropower Licensing Authority and Land Management Direction
Oroville Facilities FERC No. 2100

The Plumas National Forest is responsible for administration of several parcels of National Forest system lands within the Lake Oroville Project Boundary. These lands are located on the North, Middle, and South Fork arms of the lake. Butte County records indicate that State ownership of lands adjacent to the reservoir in the Middle Fork arm primarily stops at the Feather Falls Scenic Area boundary. On the South Fork and North Fork arms, Federal lands consisting of US Forest Service and BLM parcels are interspersed with State and private lands within the Project Boundary. The Forest Service has binding authority and responsibility from the Federal Power Act (FPA) to stipulate license articles (4(e)) that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) must include in a new license. Section 10(a) of the Federal Power Act allows the Forest Service to recommend conditions covering National Forest System Lands located outside a project boundary.

License articles contained in the Commission's Standard Form L-1 (revised October 1975) issued by Order No. 540, dated October 31, 1975, cover general requirements that the Secretary of Agriculture, acting by and through the Forest Service, considers necessary for adequate protection and utilization of the land and resources of National Forest System lands. These protections are based upon the purposes for which the national forest in question was created or acquired. For the purposes of section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 797(e)), the purposes for which the national forest was created or acquired shall be the protection and utilization of those resources enumerated in the Organic Administration Act of 1897 (30 Stat. 11), the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 (74 Stat. 215), the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2949), and any other law specifically establishing a unit of the National Forest System or prescribing the management thereof (such as the Wilderness Act or Wild and Scenic Rivers Act), including amendments to the laws, and as implemented by regulations and approved Forest Plans prepared in accordance with the National Forest Management Act. Specifically, these conditions are based on the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Plumas National Forest, as approved by the Regional Forester of the Pacific Southwest Region. The plan also includes amendments approved by the Regional Forester.

The following outlines recreation and resource direction relating to National Forest System (NFS) lands located around Lake Oroville. The direction is both specific to the Lake Oroville area and also lists direction incorporated into all forest projects. The information is contained in the Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1988), the Feather Falls Scenic Area Recreation Management Plan (1965), and the Middle Fork Feather Wild & Scenic River Operation and Maintenance Management Plan (1977).

Plumas National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan (LMP)
Standards and Guidelines

Recreation (LMP pg. 4-3 and 4-23)

- Provide for a variety of forest-related recreation, and coordinate recreation with other resource use through the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum.
- Improve and expand developed facilities and trails to meet demand while reducing unit costs and protecting other resources.
- Improve and expand developed recreation facilities to meet demand where they will not exceed resource carrying capacity or decrease the quality of intended recreation experience.
- Encourage growth of privately operated facilities serving public needs.
- Based on appropriate future use determinations authorize private operation of PNF facilities by SUP if more economically advantageous to government, a comparable recreation experience is provided, and Management Area direction is not impeded.

Visual Resources (LMP pg. 4-4)

Maintain high visual quality on lands committed to other uses or readily apparent from recreational developments. Allow management of activities to dominate the visual landscape of lands committed to intensive timber or other commodity production.

Cultural Resources (LMP pg. 4-4 and 4- 28)

- Inventory within and adjacent to potentially disturbing resource use projects and special recreation areas.
- Identify potential locations. Consult with Native American and interested parties.
- Protection and evaluate all cultural properties and manage, according to law, all significant cultural properties.
- Interpretation of historical and National Register sites that typify cultures, life-styles, and events of the northern Sierra
- Locate and manage/protect important Native American religious and gathering areas and other traditional ethnic use areas.
- Manage or protect significant/eligible cultural properties.

Wildlife, Fish, and Sensitive Plants (LMP pg. 4-4 and 4-29)

- Provide habitat leading to viable populations of endangered species. Maintain habitat to support viable populations of all native and desired nonnative vertebrate species.
- Improve and protect habitat for designated emphasis and harvest species.

- Provide diversity of plant and animal communities and tree species by assuring the continuous and viable presence of all serial stages of all native plant communities occurring on the forest.
- Provide a diversity of vegetation types and habitat to support viable populations of all fish, wildlife, and plant species
- Provide a diversity of vegetation types and habitat to support viable populations of all fish, wildlife, and plant species.
- Maintain and enhance the suitability of currently occupied nesting territories, and provide sufficient potential nesting, foraging and winter habitat to meet recovery goals of the Pacific States Bald Eagle Recovery plan. Apply Rx-11 Bald Eagle Habitat Prescription.
- At minimum, provide habitat sufficient to maintain existing populations.
- Maintain viable populations of sensitive plant species. Protect sensitive and special interest plant species as needed to maintain viability. Inventory and monitor sensitive plant populations on a project-by-project basis.
- Improvement and protection of habitat for trout.
- Ensure that trout habitat quality and quantity are not reduced by streamflow, altering activities such as hydroelectric projects. Use Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) or a comparable methodology to determine streamflow needs for Class I, II, and III streams.
- Provide for fish passage on any drainage or stream where spawning activity occurs, except with concurrence by DFG.

Riparian Areas (LMP pg. 4-7 and 4-39)

- Provide protection of riparian areas and water quality by limiting disturbance in streamside management zones according to ground slope and stability, stream class, channel stability, fishery, and other beneficial uses, and favor riparian-dependent resources in cases of competing resource demands.
- Favor riparian dependent resources and limit disturbance in all riparian areas including riparian and aquatic ecosystems, wetlands, streambanks, and floodplains.
- Favor riparian resources over other resources, except cultural resources in cases of conflict. Apply Rx-9, Riparian Area Prescription.
- Encourage natural protective processes.
- Inventory streams, streamside areas, and other wetlands in deteriorating condition and restore on a priority basis.

Water (LMP pg. 4-7 and 4-39)

- Maintain or improve water quality to protect beneficial uses and meet or exceed State objectives.
- Avoid water quality degradation by using Best Management Practices during land management activities, and reduce sedimentation, and channel erosion by rehabilitating deteriorating watersheds.

- Coordinate with counties, Cal-Trans, and the Union Pacific Railroad to eliminate the sidecasting of waste material along travel ways, except at designated locations.
- Conduct a Water Use, Needs, and Availability Survey where stream diversions or flow changes are proposed, except for FERC regulated projects for which intensive studies are required. Allow new consumptive use only of those water surplus to current uses, future PNF needs, and needed instream flows. Base conclusions for Class I, II and III streams on Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) or comparable method approved by the Forest Service.
- Reduce sediment yields from watersheds in deteriorating condition and those tributary to eroding channels or hazardous flood prone areas.
- Do analysis and mitigation on a watershed basis.
- Cooperate with local, State, and Federal agencies as well as private landowners in long-range watershed planning. Use an interdisciplinary approach.
- Protect riparian areas and water quality by limiting disturbance in streamside management zones according to ground slope and stability, stream class, channel stability, fishery, and other beneficial uses, and favor riparian-dependent resources in cases of competing resource demands.
- As needed remove excavated material from the floodplain.
- Revegetate disturbed areas within the floodplains to stabilize soil, benefit fish and wildlife, and restore the natural flood control qualities.

Energy (LMP pg. 4-49)

Facilitate permitting of hydroelectric and other new energy development that reasonably protects all resources.

- Coordinate Forest protection requirements with those of DFG, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Require applicants to furnish adequate plans and environmental studies.
- Apply consistent environmental protection through recommended conditions for water rights protest dismissal, 4(e) conditions , and any Special Use Permits issued by the Forest.

Lands (LMP pg. 4-9 and 4-50)

- Accomplish ownership adjustments that result in acquisition of TES habitat, Wild Trout Stream watershed, or critical deer range.
- Authorize non-Federal use of Plumas National Forest lands only if compatible with Management Area direction, use of other land is not feasible, conditions if issuance will mitigate all significant environmental impacts, and the public interest is protected.

Facilities (LMP pg. 4-10 and 4-52)

- Provide roads and trails necessary to achieve goals herein.
- Construct and reconstruct roads to minimum standards achieving maximum road economy and resource protection.
- Reduce new road impact by use of former roadways and disturbed areas by revegetation and other sediment control where appropriate.
- Eliminate, close, or obliterate unneeded roads.
- Maintain, reconstruct and construct other facilities necessary to support Forest activities in the most cost-efficient manner, compatible with resource protection needs.

Forest Pests (LMP pg. 4-11 and 4-49)

Use site specific, integrated pest management approach to control forest pests, employing mechanical, cultural, biological, and/or chemical methods based on effectiveness, cost-efficiency, and protection of human health and environmental quality.

Plumas National Forest Land Management Plan Prescriptions

Rx - 2. Wild & Scenic River (LMP pg 4-68)

- Middle Fork Feather established as Wild & Scenic River in 1968
- Bald Rock Canyon Wild Zone is the western most reach of the Middle Fork Feather River, and flows into Lake Oroville.
- Maintain the Visual Quality Objective of Retention.
- Acquire land and easements to implement the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and to facilitate management of other resources.
- Protect and improve wild trout habitat

Rx - 3. Feather Falls Scenic Area (LMP pg 4-75)

- Feather Falls Scenic Area was established in 1965 by the USDA Forest Service, Region 5.
- Maintain Visual Quality Objectives of Retention.
- Manage the Feather Falls Scenic Area as a Semi Primitive Non Motorized area.

Rx - 5. Recreation Area (LMP pg. 4-80)

- Provide interpretive services to meet demand.
- Where appropriate, create short loop trails in diverse forest environments. Include ties to developed sites, nearby roads, and existing trails, and extend beyond the Recreation Area if desirable.

- Expand the interpretive signing program.

Rx - 6. Developed Recreation Site (LMP pg. 4-83)

- Improve and expand developed facilities to meet demand.
- Encourage privately-operated public recreation.

Rx - 9. Riparian Area (LMP pg. 4-91)

- Assure adequate protection for Wildlife and fish resources.
- Manage flows and/or reservoir storage to maintain or enhance riparian plant communities and habitat for all life stages of fish. Cooperate with local, State, and other Federal water management agencies. Protect riparian areas while providing developed facilities
- Preserve natural riparian flood control abilities. Remove only those log jams or major debris accumulations that have a high potential of causing channel damage, block fish passage, or could be transported downstream by high flows and cause loss of property.
- Through cooperation with the State Department of Fish and Game, insure that stream alterations restore the original flow capacity while preserving the existing channel alignment.

- Comply with the Executive Orders 111988, Floodplain Management, and 11990, Protection of Wetlands.
- Minimize adverse impacts to riparian resources through appropriate mitigation stipulations in operating plans, permits, and leases coordinated with applicable State and Federal agencies.
- Facilitate hydroelectric development that provides protection of riparian resources.
- Require proponents to coordinate with PNF in analysis of instream flow need for all potentially affected riparian dependent species.
- Provide for fish passage and maintain natural channel character at stream crossings.

Rx – 10. Visual Quality Objective Retention (LMP pg 4-95)

- Rx10 is described as conducting management activities to maintain a natural appearing landscape. The areas described are seen from key travel corridors, water bodies, and other high use areas.

Rx - 11. Bald Eagle Habitat (LMP pg. 4-96)

- Encourage species recovery.
- Provide suitable nesting, roosting, and foraging according to Management Direction.
- Develop plans for each nesting territory.
- From January through August limit activities within active nesting territories.
- Between Nov 1 and March 31, limit activities within winter roost habitat.
- Perform habitat improvement projects to enhance bald eagle nesting, roosting, or foraging habitat.

Management Area Direction:

Four Management Areas, as described in the LMP, are located within and/or adjacent to the Project Boundary. These are: Management Area 3 – French Creek, Management Area 4 – Galen, Management Area 8 – Kellogg, and Management Area 10 – Feather Falls.

Management Area #3-French Creek (LMP pg 4-130 to 4-135)

Recreation
Efficiently manage recreation in the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area

- Continue cooperation allowing the California Department of Parks and Recreation to manage the reservoir area including Plumas National Forest lands

Wildlife
Protect and improve emphasis species habitat

- Maintain winter habitat for bandtailed pigeons in TC's 403 and 418
- Maintain or enhance deer winter range in TC's 403, 418 and 419

Maintain species viability

- Provide suitable bald eagle foraging habitat along the North Fork upstream from Lake Oroville

Management Area #4-Galen (LMP pg 4-136 to 4-141)

Recreation
Efficiently manage recreation in the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area

- Continue cooperation allowing the California Department of Parks and Recreation to manage the reservoir area including Plumas National Forest lands

Wildlife
Protect and improve emphasis species habitat

- Maintain winter habitat for bandtailed pigeons in TC's 414 and 430
- Maintain or enhance deer winter range in TC's 412, 414 and 430

Management Area #8-Kellog (LMP pg 4-159 to 4-163)

Recreation
Protect and enhance recreation use of the Middle Fork of the Feather River

- Manage the Wild and Scenic Zones of the MFFR consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Employ Rx-2.

Wildlife
Protect and improve emphasis species habitat

- Fore projects affecting the MFFR Wild Trout Stream, coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Game.
- Maintain or enhance deer winter range in TC's 419 and 443

Special Areas
Protect unique scenic values
- Continue special management of the Feather Falls Scenic Area (former Special Interest Area). Employ Rx-3. Recommend designation of Feather Falls as a National Natural Landmark.
- Initiate a study to determine the suitability of Fall River from Nelson's Crossing to Lake Oroville for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. Employ Rx-3 until the study is complete.

Management Area #10-Feather Falls (LMP pg 4-170 to 4-176)

Recreation
Protect and enhance recreation use of the Middle Fork of the Feather River
- Manage the Wild and Scenic Zones consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Employ Rx-2.

Wildlife
Protect and improve emphasis species habitat
- For projects affecting the Middle Fork Feather River Wild trout Stream, coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Game.
- Maintain or enhance deer winter range in TC 304.

Special Areas
Protect unique scenic values
- Continue special management of the Feather Falls Scenic Area (former Special Interest Area). Employ Rx-3. Recommend designation of Feather Falls as a National Natural Landmark.
- Initiate a study to determine the suitability of Fall River from Nelson's Crossing to Lake Oroville for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. Employ Rx-3 until the study is complete.

Feather Falls Scenic Area Recreation Management Plan

The 15,000 acre Feather Falls Scenic Area was designated in 1965 to 'preserve its unique beauty for public enjoyment and inspiration'. The southern most edge of the Feather Falls Scenic Area lies within the Project Boundary, and includes the upper portion of the Middle Fork arm of Lake Oroville.

The Feather Falls Scenic Area Recreation Management Plan describes recreation opportunities within the Scenic Area. Those recreation opportunities within the portion of the Scenic Area that lies within the Project Boundary include: public viewing of the spectacular scenery, hiking, riding, fishing (Middle Fork and Fall River).

Proposed development within the Plan includes a boat landing at the mouth of Fall River on Lake Oroville and construction of a trail from the mouth of Fall River (at Lake Oroville) to the base of Feather Falls (approximately ½ mile).

Middle Fork Feather Wild and Scenic River Operation and Maintenance Management Plan

In 1970 Congress designated the Middle Fork Feather River one of the nation's first Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Middle Fork Feather River, Bald Rock Canyon Wild River Zone, flows into Lake Oroville at the Project Boundary. The lands within the Wild River are managed as Wild & Scenic. Future recreation development projects will be limited to projects that will not detract from the wild river attributes.