

Rush Creek Project, FERC Project No. 1389

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# REC 1 – Recreation Technical Study Report

January 2025



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Regulatory Support Services  
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## List of Acronyms

CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
EAP	Emergency Action Plan
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
INF	Inyo National Forest
LADWP	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
PAD	Pre-Application Document
Project	Rush Creek Project
PSP	Proposed Study Plan
Recreation TSP	REC 1 – Recreation Technical Study Plan
RV	Recreational Vehicle
SCE	Southern California Edison Company
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
TSP	Technical Study Plan
TSR	Technical Study Report

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This Technical Study Report (TSR) describes the methods and results associated with implementation of the REC 1 – Recreation Technical Study Plan (Recreation TSP) for the Rush Creek Project (Project). The Recreation TSP was included in Southern California Edison's (SCE's) Revised Study Plan<sup>1</sup> and was approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on October 26, 2022, as part of its Study Plan Determination for the Project. This report describes the methods and results of the Recreation TSP, the elements of which were completed in 2023.

## 2 STUDY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Recreation TSP were to:

- Characterize the recreation setting and opportunities in the Rush Creek Watershed and in the immediate vicinity of the Project.
- Characterize non-commercial recreation use along the Rush Creek Trail and in the vicinity of the Project, including day and overnight use.
- Characterize commercial use along the Rush Creek Trail and in the vicinity of the Project, including day and overnight trips.
- Characterize angling opportunities and use at the Project reservoirs and adjacent Project-affected stream segments.
- Characterize sub-daily changes in water surface elevation in Rush Creek downstream of the Rush Creek Powerhouse tailrace associated with Project operations.
- Estimate potential future recreation use in the vicinity of the Project using existing use data and published recreation trends information.
- Document potential public safety issues and existing programs and measures that are implemented by SCE to protect public health and safety.

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<sup>1</sup> SCE filed a Proposed Study Plan (PSP) on May 26, 2022 (SCE 2022a). Four comment letters were filed on the PSP, and six study plans were revised. SCE filed a Revised Study Plan on September 23, 2022 (SCE 2022b). FERC subsequently issued a Study Plan Determination on October 26, 2022, approving all study plans for the Rush Creek Project (FERC 2022).

### **3 STUDY IMPLEMENTATION**

Study elements described in the Recreation TSP were initiated in 2023. The study elements that have been completed, study elements that are outstanding, and any deviations or proposed modifications to the Recreation TSP are discussed in the following subsections.

#### **3.1 STUDY ELEMENTS COMPLETED**

The following study elements were completed in 2023:

- Characterized the recreation setting and opportunities in the Rush Creek Watershed and in the immediate vicinity of the Project.
- Characterized non-commercial recreation use along the Rush Creek Trail and in the vicinity of the Project.
- Characterized commercial recreation use along the Rush Creek Trail and in the vicinity of the Project.
- Characterize flow fluctuations in Rush Creek downstream of the Rush Creek Powerhouse tailrace.<sup>2</sup>
- Estimated future recreation use and demand.
- Documented public safety.

#### **3.2 VARIANCES FROM THE RECREATION TSP**

There were two minor variances to study implementation compared to the study plan as described in the TSP:

- The Inyo National Forest (INF) provided wilderness permit data for the period from fall of 2018 through December 2022. Data was not available prior to the fall of 2018. Therefore, the analysis reflects 4+ years of data rather than 5 years of data as indicated in the Recreation TSP.
- The self-registration box was installed on May 24, 2023 and removed on November 1 (165 days). The TSP specified installation commensurate with the beginning of the INF wilderness permit quota season (May 1), however, the trail was not accessible until later in May due to residual snowpack preventing access.

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<sup>2</sup> A sub-daily analysis of water surface and discharge was prepared as part of implementation of the AQ 1 – Instream Flow Technical Study Plan (TSP) and the AQ 2 – Hydrology TSP. This analysis characterizes flow fluctuations in Rush Creek under both existing and Proposed Project operations with a focus on the relationship of the fluctuations to stream-based recreation opportunities and constraints. The analysis characterizes flow fluctuations in Rush Creek between: (1) the Powerhouse tailrace and Silver Lake inlet, and (2) Silver Lake outlet and Grant Lake.

### **3.3 OUTSTANDING STUDY ELEMENTS**

There are no outstanding study elements.

## **4 STUDY AREA AND STUDY SITES**

The study area includes the Rush Creek Watershed from its headwaters near Mt. Lyell to the confluence of Rush Creek with Grant Lake (refer to Map REC 1-1). The following areas were the primary focus of the study:

- The trail network in the vicinity of the Project, including the Rush Creek Trail from a developed trailhead (the Rush Creek Trailhead) located near Silver Lake to its intersection with the Pacific Crest Trail and the trails that connect to the Rush Creek Trail (e.g., Spooky Meadows Trail, Clark Lakes Trail, Alger Lakes Trail, and Weber Lake Trail).
- Project-affected stream segments from Waugh Lake to the confluence of Rush Creek and Grant Lake. Table REC 1-1 identifies the Project-affected stream segments.
- The three Project reservoirs (Waugh, Gem, and Agnew lakes) and Silver Lake (non-Project natural lake), including the area immediately surrounding these reservoirs/lakes.
- Commercial pack station camps located along the Rush Creek Trail, including the Billy Lake Stock Camp and Frontier Pack Station Camp.

These areas are shown on Map REC 1-2, Developed Recreation Facilities in the Vicinity of the Rush Creek Project in relation to the primary Project facilities, FERC Project boundary, and land jurisdiction.

## **5 STUDY APPROACH**

This section provides details on the study approach used to characterize non-commercial and commercial use along the Rush Creek Trail and in the vicinity of the Project; to characterize flow fluctuations in Rush Creek downstream of the tailrace; to estimate future recreation use and demand; and to document safety measures and safety incidents associated with the Project.

### **5.1 CHARACTERIZED THE RECREATION SETTING AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RUSH CREEK WATERSHED AND IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT**

The recreation setting and opportunities in the vicinity of the Project (including narrative descriptions accompanied by maps and tables) is described in Section 4.11 of the PAD (SCE 2021). The description in the PAD was based on data and information readily available from existing information sources.

## 5.2 CHARACTERIZE NON-COMMERCIAL RECREATION USE ALONG THE RUSH CREEK TRAIL AND IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT

- Inyo National Forest (INF) staff familiar with the Rush Creek Watershed were interviewed regarding trail use in the vicinity of the Project and popular backcountry destinations.
- The most recent 4 years of overnight-use data (September 2018 to December 2022)<sup>3</sup> gathered from the INF under its wilderness permit system were analyzed for the following information:
  - Common overnight destinations accessible from the Rush Creek Trailhead.
  - Other trailheads used to access the Rush Creek Watershed.
  - The number of overnight visitors who use the Rush Creek Trail, starting from the Rush Creek Trailhead or other connected trailheads.
  - Destination, average group size, and length of stay, focusing on use in the vicinity of the Project-affected stream segments and Project reservoirs.
  - Weekday, weekend, and holiday use, given the information available on the wilderness permits.
  - The number of times the overnight quota at the Rush Creek Trailhead was met or exceeded.
  - The area of origin of the visitors who use the Rush Creek Trail.
- To develop information about visitor and angling use along the Rush Creek Trail and in the vicinity of the Project, SCE conducted in-person counts and visitor surveys, as well as established a self-registration box along the first section of the Rush Creek Trail. Map REC 1-3 illustrates the location of the box. The use counts and visitor surveys focused on incoming and outgoing users of the Rush Creek Trail. In-person visitor counts and surveys were conducted as follows:
  - A survey technician was stationed at a point approximately 0.25 mile up the trail from the Rush Creek Trailhead (adjacent to the location of the self-registration box) to count visitors and administer surveys a total of 34 days throughout the 2023 recreation season. The first day of the in-person counts was May 27, 2023, and the last day was September 24, 2023.

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<sup>3</sup> See variance note in Section 3.2 above.

- Counts and surveys were conducted on one weekday and one weekend day every other week (randomly selected) and on all holidays, resulting in surveys of:
  - 13 weekdays
  - 13 weekend days
  - 3 holidays—Memorial Day (May 27–29, 2023), Independence Day (July 3–4, 2023), and Labor Day (September 2–4, 2023)
  - The survey technician was present during one of two randomly selected time blocks defined as follows: Block 1—8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Block 2—4:00 p.m. to sunset
- During each survey period, the survey technician:
  - Recorded the total number of people accessing the trail, distinguishing between overnight and day users.
  - Recorded the total number of anglers.
  - Intercepted visitors and asked them to participate in a brief survey administered using a survey form developed in consultation with the INF and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Questions in the survey form focused on the collection of demographic, destination, and recreation activity information, including angling.
- The temporary self-registration box at the Rush Creek Trailhead was established as follows:
  - A self-registration box was installed along the Rush Creek Trail for 165 full days from May 24, 2023, through November 1, 2023. The coordinates of the location where the box was installed are 37.773694, -119.129139. Refer to Photo REC-1 for a photo of the self-registration box.
  - Signage affixed to the post on which the box was mounted requested that day users and anglers using the Rush Creek Trail (whether entering or exiting) complete a short survey.
  - The box contained survey forms (developed in consultation with the INF and CDFW). The ingress survey form was provided in both Spanish and English. Appendix A includes the ingress and egress forms available within the self-registration box.

### **5.3 CHARACTERIZE COMMERCIAL RECREATION USE ALONG THE RUSH CREEK TRAIL AND IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT**

- The Frontier Pack Station outfitter was interviewed to identify the most popular pack routes and most popular backcountry destinations in the vicinity of the Project.
- Commercial overnight-use data<sup>4</sup> provided by the INF was reviewed to characterize commercial use along the Rush Creek Trail and at the overnight pack camps located in the vicinity of the Project.

### **5.4 CHARACTERIZE FLOW FLUCTUATION IN RUSH CREEK DOWNSTREAM OF THE RUSH CREEK POWERHOUSE TAILRACE**

- Flow fluctuation information for the reach downstream of the Rush Creek Powerhouse Tailrace is provided in the AQ 1 – Instream Flow TSR and the AQ 2 – Hydrology TSR.

### **5.5 ESTIMATE FUTURE RECREATION USE AND DEMAND**

- Future recreation needs in the vicinity of the Project were estimated using U.S. census data and information available in current relevant federal, state, and local comprehensive plans.
- Use estimates and visitor survey responses, along with trends and population projections, were utilized to estimate future recreation needs over the license period (assumed to be 50 years).
- Future recreation needs in the vicinity of Project were assessed to determine if they could be met.

### **5.6 DOCUMENT PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Existing programs and measures implemented by SCE to protect public health and safety (i.e., buoy lines, fencing, signage, and alarms) were identified and described. The inventory included a description of the condition of the existing safety features.
- The number, type, and location of safety incidents related to recreation that have occurred in the vicinity of the Project over the past 10 years were characterized. This effort was conducted by reviewing existing records and databases maintained by the FERC and by consulting with SCE staff.

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<sup>4</sup> The most recent 4 years of overnight-use data (September 2018 to December 2022) gathered from the INF under its wilderness permit system were analyzed.

## **6 SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

### **6.1 CHARACTERIZE THE RECREATION SETTING AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RUSH CREEK WATERSHED AND IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT**

Section 4.11 of the PAD (SCE 2021) characterizes the recreation setting and opportunities in the vicinity of the Project (including narrative descriptions accompanied by maps and tables) based on data and information readily available from existing information sources. Refer to Table REC 1-2 for the list of developed recreation facilities in the vicinity of the Rush Creek Project and to Map REC 1-2 for an illustration of the same.

### **6.2 NON-COMMERCIAL RECREATION USE ALONG THE RUSH CREEK TRAIL AND IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT**

Study results confirmed that day hiking and backpacking continue to be popular activities along the Rush Creek Trail in the vicinity of the Project and have increased in popularity since overnight data was last compiled by the INF in the late 1990s. The following results are organized by (1) overnight-use data and (2) day-use data.

#### **6.2.1 Overnight Trail Use in the Vicinity of the Project**

SCE compiled data from the most recent 4+ years of wilderness permits: September 2018 to December 2022. Analysis of this data identified the following:

- An average of 2,785 people per year obtained permits for overnight travel through the Rush Creek drainage by way of the Rush Creek Trailhead or other connecting trailheads. Comparatively, from January 1996 to December 2000 (5 years), an average of 1,733 people per year obtained permits for overnight travel through the Rush Creek drainage. Therefore, overnight trips into the Rush Creek drainage have, on average, increased 160 percent since the late 1990s.
- The daily maximum non-commercial overnight wilderness permit quota<sup>5</sup> for the Rush Creek Trailhead was reached 48 times: 4 days in 2019, 1 day in 2020, 40 days in 2021, and 3 days in 2022. By comparison, from January 1996 to December 2000, the overnight wilderness permit quota was reached six times.
- The highest visitor-by-volume month was July, which saw an average of 814 overnight visitors traveling through the Rush Creek drainage (Figure REC 1-1).
- Overnight visitation peaked in 2021; that year 3,482 people camped overnight in the Rush Creek drainage.
- The average group size was three individuals.

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<sup>5</sup> The non-commercial wilderness permit quota for the Rush Creek Trail is 30 persons per day (i.e., up to 30 people may start an overnight trip from the Rush Creek Trailhead each day). In addition to this 30-person non-commercial quota, the United States Forest Service reserves a commercial quota of 15 persons per day that may start an overnight trip from the Rush Creek Trailhead.

- Overnight visitors stayed an average of 5 days in the backcountry: one to two nights in the Rush Creek drainage and one to two nights in the San Joaquin drainage (location of Thousand Island Lake, a popular backcountry destination).
- Most overnight visitors entered the Rush Creek drainage via the Rush Creek Trailhead. However, each year between one and eight visitors accessed the area from other trailheads, including Bloody Canyon (AA03), High Trail (AA09), Minaret Lake (AA11), Mono Pass (JM08), Parker Lake (AA04), River Trail (AA08), and Valentine Lake (JM02).
- The majority of overnight visitors (98 percent) were from the United States. Two percent of permits (29 permits) listed an international zip code. Refer to Figure REC 1-2 for an illustration of the number of permitted overnight visitors in the Rush Creek drainage by region.
- Of the 1,574 permits associated with domestic zip codes, 64 percent (1,008 permits) listed a California zip code and 36 percent (566 permits) listed a zip code outside of California. Within California, about half of the permit holders originated from Southern California (52 percent) and half from Northern California (48 percent). Only 14 permits had a local zip code listed (Bridgeport to Lone Pine, California).

Two INF rangers<sup>6</sup> were interviewed about their impressions of overnight use along the Rush Creek Trail. One said the trail receives moderate use and the other that the trail receives extremely high use by backpackers and that the only trailhead accessible from the east side of the Sierra Nevada that receives more use is the Red Meadows Trailhead. The ranger with more experience in the backcountry in the Rush Creek drainage said the most popular overnight camping destinations in the study area are around Gem Lake. The ranger characterized camping near Gem Lake as more popular than around Waugh Lake and much more popular than around Agnew Lake, where there are few, if any, obvious dispersed camping locations.

The owner of Frontier Pack Train and a long-term Frontier Pack Train employee (with 28 years of experience working for the outfitter) were interviewed about their impressions of trail use.<sup>7</sup> The owner and employee agreed that the most popular stretch of the Rush Creek Trail is between the trailhead and Agnew Lake, and, like the INF rangers, they identified that most people camp near Gem Lake, specifically between Gem Lake and Cress Creek. The owner and employee noted they occasionally see camps behind Waugh Lake toward the John Muir Trail/Pacific Crest Trail.

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<sup>6</sup> Personal communication between Terri Fischer and Spencer Rogers, Forest Rangers, Inyo National Forest, and Jessica Keil, Stantec, December 2023.

<sup>7</sup> Personal communication between Kent Dohnel and Justin Dohnel, Frontier Pack Train owner and long-term employee respectively, and Patricia Sussman, Stantec, July and September 2023.

### **6.2.2 Day Use and Angling Use along the Rush Creek Trail and in the Vicinity of the Project**

During the 165-day survey period (May 24, 2023–November 1, 2023), SCE collected 1,227 surveys from day users representing a count of 3,043 day users along the Rush Creek Trail. Day use peaked in July, during which approximately 1,400 day users were recorded along the trail compared to 410 day users in June and 470 in August (Figure REC 1-3). More users were recorded on the average weekend day (27 day users) than on the average weekday (17 day users). Over the course of any one day, the 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. hour had the highest traffic. All (100 percent) of the trail users are assumed to have been counted when a survey technician was present (34 times during the survey period). When the survey technician was not present, the response rate by users self-administering surveys was calculated to be 45 percent.<sup>8</sup> Using the gathered survey data and calculated response rate, approximately 5,555 day users are estimated to have used the Rush Creek Trail over the course of the survey period.

The survey yielded the following information about the day users:

- The age of users was relatively evenly distributed among the categories, with the greatest number of people identifying as between 30 and 39 years of age (21 percent of respondents). Table REC 1-3 presents the day user age distribution by percent.
- The majority (92 percent) of survey respondents indicated their primary recreation activity was day hiking. Three percent (3 percent) indicated their primary recreation activity was trail running, and another 3 percent indicated their primary recreation activity was fishing. Table REC 1-4 presents a description of day user activity by percent.
- The majority of survey respondents were from the United States (92 percent). The remaining respondents identified as either international visitors (4 percent) or had an unknown or illegible zip code. Of the domestic zip codes, 83 percent were California zip codes and 17 percent were from locations outside of California. A little less than half of the respondents with California zip codes were from Northern California (45 percent) and a little more than half were from Southern California (57 percent). Only 9 percent of day users were from local areas (between Bridgeport and Lone Pine, California). Refer to Figure REC 1-4 for an illustration of the number of recorded day users in the Rush Creek drainage from May to October 2023 by region.

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<sup>8</sup> The response rate was calculated by comparing the average number of users counted on a day when a technician was present to the average number of users counted on a day when a technician was not present. The time period and day of the week (weekend or weekday) the survey technician was present was taken into account when calculating and comparing averages.

- The most popular user destinations were Agnew Lake and Horsetail Falls. Thirty five percent (35%) of respondents indicated their destination was Agnew Lake and 32 percent indicated their destination was Horsetail Falls. Twenty four percent (24%) of respondents indicated their destination was Gem Lake. Only 2 percent of respondents indicated their destination was Waugh Lake. The remaining approximately 5 percent of respondents indicated another destination. Table REC 1-5 presents a description of day user destination by percent.

### **6.2.2.1      *Fishing***

In the fishing-specific section of the ingress self-survey form, 359 respondents (representing 3 percent of total respondents) indicated they planned to fish during their time in the backcountry. However, only 23 egress surveys representing approximately 32 anglers were collected describing their fishing experience. The following information is from these 23 angler egress surveys:

- Anglers identified having fished at Rush Creek, Agnew Lake, Gem Lake, Waugh Lake, Thousand Island Lake, and Clark Lakes. At least 23 anglers identified Gem Lake as one of the locations fished.
- Anglers reported catching 196 fish<sup>9</sup>: 121 brook trout, 50 rainbow trout, and 6 golden rainbow hybrids. Nineteen of the fish caught could not be identified by the angler. Anglers reported keeping 13 fish, self-reported to be more than 10 inches in length. All other fish were reported to have been released.
- The most commonly used fishing gear identified was lures: 16 anglers used lures, 10 used flies, and 2 used bait.

## **6.3      COMMERCIAL RECREATION USE ALONG THE RUSH CREEK TRAIL AND IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT**

Frontier Pack Train provides commercial mule pack trips into the Ansel Adams Wilderness from the Rush Creek Trailhead under a special-use permit from the INF. The special-use permit specifies a commercial use quota of 15 people per day with additional permit conditions pertaining to the location of the two primitive stock camps Frontier Pack Station establishes to support its trips and the number of people who may camp at the stock camps at one time. Both primitive stock camps are located between Gem and Waugh lakes, adjacent to the Rush Creek Trail.

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<sup>9</sup> More than half of the brook trout caught were reported caught by two anglers. One, an angler in September of 2023, reported catching 60 brook trout and 6 unidentified fish from Rush Creek using lures during their trip. An angler in October of 2023 reported catching 35 brook trout from Clark Lakes using lures.

SCE used data from the recent 4 years of INF wilderness permits—September 2018 to December 2022—to analyze commercial recreation use along the Rush Creek Trail and in the vicinity of the Project. Analysis of these data identified the following:

- An average of 236 people per year joined the Frontier Pack Train for an overnight trip into the Rush Creek drainage by way of the Rush Creek Trailhead.
- The daily maximum overnight commercial use permit quota was met 20 times: 4 days in 2019, 3 days in 2020, 9 days in 2021, and 4 days in 2022.
- The highest visitor-by-volume month was July.
- The average group size was eight individuals.

#### **6.4 FLOW FLUCTUATION IN RUSH CREEK DOWNSTREAM OF THE RUSH CREEK POWERHOUSE TAILRACE**

The reach of Rush Creek between the Tailrace of the Powerhouse (upstream) and the inlet of Silver Lake (downstream) is approximately 0.9 linear mile and is fed by several creeks, including Reversed Creek, South Rush Creek, and two unnamed tributaries, as well as by SCE-controlled flows from the Agnew Flume and the Powerhouse Tailrace. Recreation activities in the reach include fishing, paddleboarding, canoeing, and kayaking, and recreationists engaging in all of these activities were observed by SCE contract field staff throughout the 2023 summer months and into early fall. Field staff also observed the occasional small motorboat attempting upstream passage into the reach from Silver Lake.<sup>10</sup>

A sub-daily analysis of water surface and discharge was prepared as part of implementation of the AQ 1 – Instream Flow Technical Study Plan (TSP) and the AQ 2 – Hydrology TSP. The analysis characterizes flow fluctuation in Rush Creek between: (1) the Powerhouse Tailrace and Silver Lake inlet, and (2) Silver Lake outlet and Grant Lake. This information is provided in the AQ 1 – Instream Flow TSR and the AQ 2 – Hydrology TSR.

#### **6.5 FUTURE RECREATION USE AND DEMAND**

Visitor use projections for the study area were estimated by analyzing trends in recreation activities and projected population growth of communities where visitors reside. Although Mono County has a small population (under 14,000) and a low population growth rate (around 1 percent) (California Department of Transportation 2023), a recent study conducted by Mono County Economic Development that measured the economic and fiscal impacts of visitors to the county identified that Mono County attracts nearly two million non-local visitors on a year-round basis due to its outdoor activities (Mono County 2019). During 2018, 39 percent of visitors to the county said they were likely to return due to the area's outdoor recreation (Mono County 2019).

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<sup>10</sup> Personal communication between Jennifer Hammond and Jessica Keil, Stantec, and Patricia Sussman, Stantec, February 2023.

Consistent with the county's study, the non-commercial recreation use data collected during implementation of this study found that most users traveling along the Rush Creek Trail were not local residents. The majority of users were from California. Therefore, population growth projections and recreation use trends for California in particular are appropriate to reference with respect to the study area.

Population growth projections in California, where most visitors to the study area originate, are only minimal for the next decade, just a 1 percent projected growth rate between 2020 and 2023 (California Department of Finance 2023).

The California Department of Parks and Recreation updates the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every 5 years. The SCORP provides a strategy for statewide outdoor recreation leadership and action to meet the state's identified outdoor recreation needs. The action plan is derived from public input and a statewide evaluation of existing park and recreation lands. In general, recreation opportunities with projected increased demand in the 2020 SCORP (the current SCORP) include those recreational activities (hiking, running, non-motorized water sports, wildlife viewing) available in the study area. The 2020 SCORP also identified that a need in California is to conserve larger landscapes and habitats to provide hiking, camping, and other recreational opportunities.

While the population growth projections for California are minimal, given trends demonstrating increasing interest in dispersed recreation activities such as those identified in the Mono County Economic Development study, in the SCORP, and by the 160 percent increase in overnight trips into the Rush Creek drainage since the late 1990s, it is reasonable to assume that the study area (Rush Creek Watershed from its headwaters near Mt. Lyell to Rush Creek confluence with Grant Lake) will continue to grow in popularity as a destination for dispersed outdoor recreation over the next Project license period.

## **6.6 PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Project does not include any developed recreation facilities that would support recreation use. However, dispersed recreation use, including camping and fishing, does occur at Project reservoirs and along Rush Creek within the FERC Project boundary.

SCE maintains a Public Safety Plan for the Project that identifies the location of public safety measures and signage at Project facilities. The goal of the plan is to reduce the potential for any accidents near or within locations where SCE facilities are present. Key safety features identified in the plan were observed to be in working order during the 2023 field season and include the following:

- Locked gates restrict public access to the crest of all dams.
- Access to the area around the Powerhouse is restricted via remote-control double metal gates and fences.
- Signage installed along the tram tracks reminds hikers to stay off the tracks.

- All SCE buildings (including the boathouses, storage sheds, and ancillary facilities) are locked.
- A railing encircles the 18-inch valve just below Agnew Dam to discourage people from climbing up to or otherwise interacting with the valve.

In addition, SCE maintains an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for Agnew Dam, Gem Dam and Rush Meadows Dam, and operates the dams in accordance with each individual EAP. The EAPs for each dam were developed in accordance with California Water Code Sections 6160 and 6161 and Government Code Section 8589.5, following Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety: EAP for Dams (FEMA 64/July 2013). As part of regular operation and in accordance with the EAPs, SCE routinely visits/inspects each dam with the intention of discovering potentially dangerous conditions before actual failure of the dams occurs. The most recent EAP for Gem Dam was approved by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Dam Safety Planning Division on May 16, 2023. For Agnew Dam and for Rush Meadows Dam the EAP was approved on October 6, 2023.

A review of the last 10 years of records<sup>11</sup> associated with the Project found no safety incidents involving the public. Project operations staff reported SCE has responded to the occasional request from Mono County to operate the tram to Agnew Lake to support search-and-rescue efforts not associated with use of Project reservoirs. SCE maintains rescue litters within the boathouses at Gem Dam and Agnew Dam to respond to any emergency.

## 7 REFERENCES

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<sup>11</sup> Including a review of SCE's safety action log and FERC filings.

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## TABLES

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**Table REC 1-1. Stream Segments.**

<b>Stream Segment Name</b>	<b>Segment Length (miles) / River Miles (RM)</b>	<b>Elevation Range (feet) (% gradient)</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Rush Creek</b>				
Waugh Lake	1.51 (RM 22.24–23.75)	9,392 <sup>1</sup>	—	Project Reservoir
Rush Creek Below Rush Meadow Dam	1.83 (RM 20.41–22.24)	9,036–9,371.6 (3.47%)	Project-affected Stream Segment	Moderate Gradient Mountain Stream
Gem Lake	0.93 (RM 19.48–20.41)	9,027.5 <sup>1</sup>	—	Project Reservoir
Rush Creek Below Gem Dam	0.30 (RM 19.18–19.48)	8,539.2–9,008 (29.60%)	Project-affected Stream Segment	Steep Mountain Stream
Agnew Lake	0.58 (RM 18.60–19.18)	8,470 <sup>1</sup>	—	Project Reservoir
Rush Creek Below Agnew Dam	0.40 (RM 18.2–18.60)	8,214–8,460 (11.65%)	Project-affected Stream Segment	Steep Mountain Stream
Rush Creek Horsetail Falls	0.54 (RM 17.66–18.2)	7,306.8–8,214 (31.82%)	Project-affected Stream Segment	Steep Mountain Stream
Rush Creek Above Silver Lake	0.94 (RM 16.72–17.66)	7,216.2–7,306.8 (1.83%)	Project-affected Stream Segment	Low-Gradient Meadow Stream <sup>3</sup>
Silver Lake	0.83 (RM 15.89–16.72)	7,215 <sup>2</sup>	—	Natural Lake
Rush Creek Below Silver Lake	2.69 (RM 13.20–15.89)	7,131–7,214.7 (0.59%)	Project-affected Stream Segment	Low-Gradient Stream
Grant Lake	3.88 (RM 9.32–13.20)	7,131 <sup>2</sup>	—	Non-Project Reservoir; LADWP Controlled
Rush Creek Below Grant Lake	9.32 (RM 0.0–9.32)	6,327–7,080 (1.44%)	Non-Project Stream Segment; LADWP Controlled	Low-Gradient Stream
<b>South Rush Creek</b>				
South Rush Creek	0.46 (RM 0.0–0.46)	7,221–7,551.7 (13.62%)	Project-affected Stream Segment	Steep Mountain Stream <sup>3</sup>

**Notes:**

LADWP = Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
 RM = River Mile

<sup>1</sup> Maximum seismic restriction elevation

<sup>2</sup> Approximate ordinary high water mark

<sup>3</sup> This stream segment has some very low gradient and some steeper gradient sections

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Table REC 1-2. Developed Recreation Facilities in the Vicinity of the Rush Creek Project

General Location/Facility Type	Facility Name	Within or Crossing Project Boundary?	Jurisdiction/ Ownership	Number of Individual Sites (if applicable)	Total Capacity (6 PAOT/site)	Information Sources
June Lake						
Campground	June Lake Campground	No	Forest Service	28	168	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20570">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20570</a>
Campground	Oh Ridge Campground	No	Forest Service	143	858	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20576">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20576</a>
Day-Use Area	June Lake Beach	No	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20560">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20560</a>
Marina	June Lake Marina	No	Private	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.junelakemarina.net/">https://www.junelakemarina.net/</a>
Marina, Boat Launch, and Cabins	Big Rock Resort	No	Private	8 cabins	48	<a href="https://www.bigrockresort.net/">https://www.bigrockresort.net/</a>
RV Park	June Lake RV Park	No	Private	17 RV sites, 3 rental houses	NA	<a href="https://www.junelakervpark.com/">https://www.junelakervpark.com/</a>
RV Park	Pine Cliff Resort	No	Private	Unknown	NA	<a href="http://pinecliffresort.net/">http://pinecliffresort.net/</a>
Gull Lake						
Boat Launch (Car Top only)	Gull Meadows Boat Launch	No	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20582">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20582</a>
Campground	Gull Lake Campground	No	Forest Service	11	66	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20568">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20568</a>
Marina	Gull Lake Marina	No	Private	NA	NA	<a href="https://gulllakemarina.com/">https://gulllakemarina.com/</a>
RV Park and Campground	Golden Pine RV Park	No	Private	25 RV Spaces	NA	<a href="https://www.goldenpinervpark.com/">https://www.goldenpinervpark.com/</a>
Campground	Reversed Creek Campground	No	Forest Service	17	102	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20566">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20566</a>
Ski Area	June Mountain	No	Private	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.junemountain.com/">https://www.junemountain.com/</a>
Silver Lake						
Boat Launch	Silver Lake Boat Launch	No	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20574">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20574</a>
Campground	Silver Lake Campground	No	Forest Service	63	378	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20564">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20564</a>
Day-Use Area / Picnic Area	Silver Lake Picnic Area	No	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20582">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20582</a>
RV Park and Cabins	Silver Lake Resort	No	Private	81 RV Spaces, 15 cabins, 3 rental houses	NA	<a href="https://silverlakeresort.net/rv-park/">https://silverlakeresort.net/rv-park/</a>
Pack Station	Frontier Pack Station	No	Private	NA	NA	<a href="https://frontierpacktrain.com/">https://frontierpacktrain.com/</a>
Rush Creek						
Day-Use Area / Picnic Area / Overflow Campground	Aerie Crag Day-Use Area	No	Forest Service	10	60	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20580">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20580</a>
Grant Lake						
RV Park, Marina, and Campground	Grant Lake Resort	No	Private	70 RV Spaces	NA	<a href="https://grantlakeresort.com/campground/">https://grantlakeresort.com/campground/</a>
Backcountry						
Forest Service Trail	Alger Lakes Trail	Yes	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51</a>
Forest Service Trail	Clark Lakes Trail	Yes	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51</a>

General Location/Facility Type	Facility Name	Within or Crossing Project Boundary?	Jurisdiction/ Ownership	Number of Individual Sites (if applicable)	Total Capacity (6 PAOT/site)	Information Sources
Forest Service Trail	Davis Lake Trail	No	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51</a>
Forest Service Trail	Fern Lake Trail	No	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20670">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20670</a>
Forest Service Trail	John Muir Trail	No	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=20542&amp;actid=30">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=20542&amp;actid=30</a>
Forest Service Trail	Marie Lakes Trail	No	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=20542&amp;actid=31">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=20542&amp;actid=31</a>
Forest Service Trail	Pacific Crest Trail	No	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51</a>
Forest Service Trail	Parker Bench Trail	No	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51</a>
Forest Service Trail	Rush Creek Trail	Yes	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51</a>
Forest Service Trail	Spooky Meadow Trail	Yes	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51</a>
Forest Service Trail	Weber Lake Trail	Yes	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recreation/recarea/?recid=20668&amp;actid=51</a>
Forest Service Trail	Yost Lake Trail	No	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20670">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20670</a>
Forest Service Trail	Yost Meadow Loop Trail	No	Forest Service	NA	NA	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20670">https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/inyo/recarea/?recid=20670</a>

\*This list of facilities is reflected in Map REC 1-2, Development Recreation Facilities in the Vicinity of the Rush Creek Project

**Table REC 1-3. Day User Age Distribution by Percent May 24 – November 1, 2023**

Age of Day Users							
Under 16	16–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60–69	70+
7%	5%	15%	21%	16%	16%	15%	5%

Source: Survey data collected from May 24 to November 1, 2023.

**Table REC 1-4. Percentage of Day Users Participating in Recreation Activities May 24 – November 1, 2023**

Primary Recreation Activity	
Type of Activity	Percentage of Day Users Participating in Activity
Day Hiking	92%
Trail Running	3%
Fishing	3%
Camping	0.7%
Mountaineering	0.2%
Photography	0.2%
Nature-Based Activity (e.g., Birding, Flower ID)	0.1%
Swimming	0.03%
Meditation	0.03%

Source: Survey data collected May 24 to November 1, 2023.

**Table REC 1-5. Rush Creek Trail Popular Day User Destinations May 24 – November 1, 2023**

Day User Destination	
Destination	Percentage of Day User Destination Selection <sup>1</sup>
Horsetail Falls	31.68%
Agnew Lake	34.79%
Gem Lake	24.39%
Waugh Lake	2.01%
Pacific Crest Trail	1.39%
Thousand Island Lake	2.22%
Clark Lakes	0.35%
Carson Peak	0.27%
Spooky Meadows Trail	0.24%
Garnet Lake	0.19%
Banner Peak	0.08%
Other <sup>2</sup>	0.05%
Unknown	2.35%

Source: Survey data collected May 24 to November 1, 2023.

Notes:

1. Day users were able to select more than one destination per trip.
2. Other includes: Mono Pass Trailhead, and Ruby Lake

## PHOTOGRAPHS

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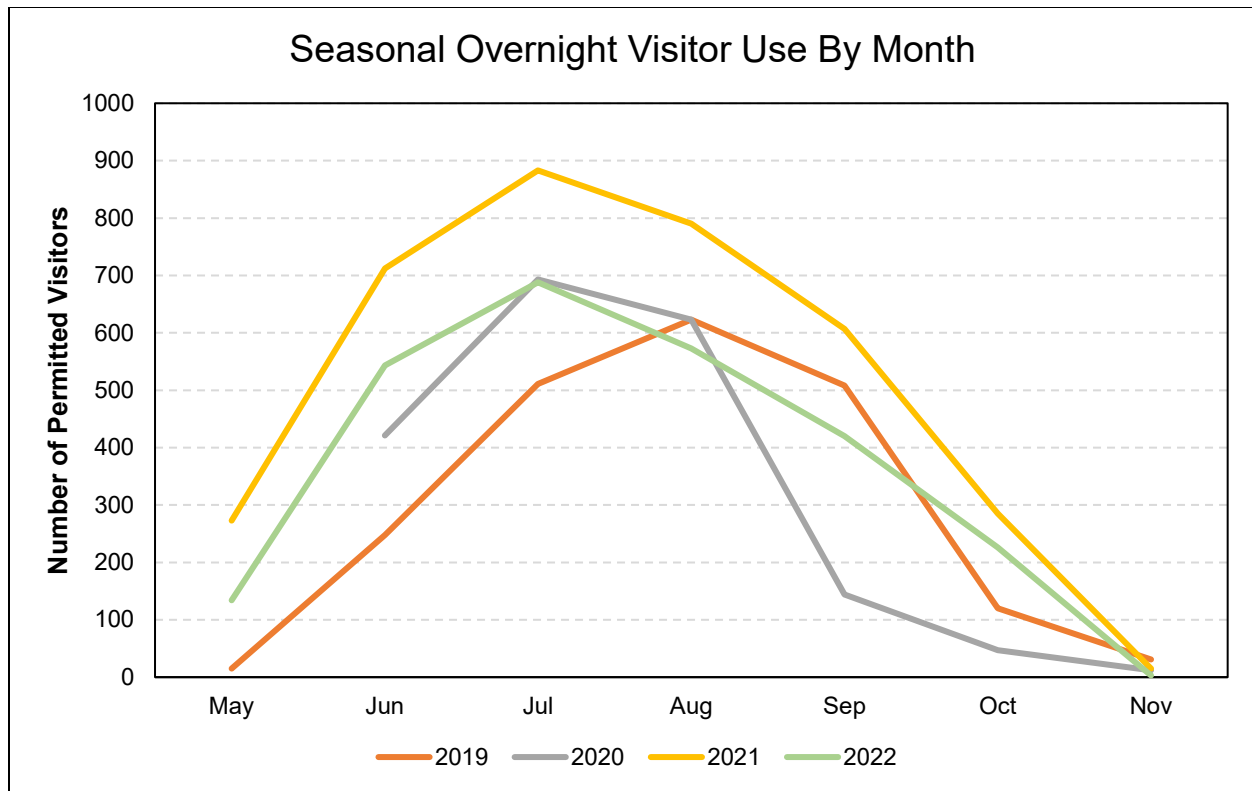


**Photo REC 1-1. Photograph of Self-Registration Box along the Rush Creek Trail**

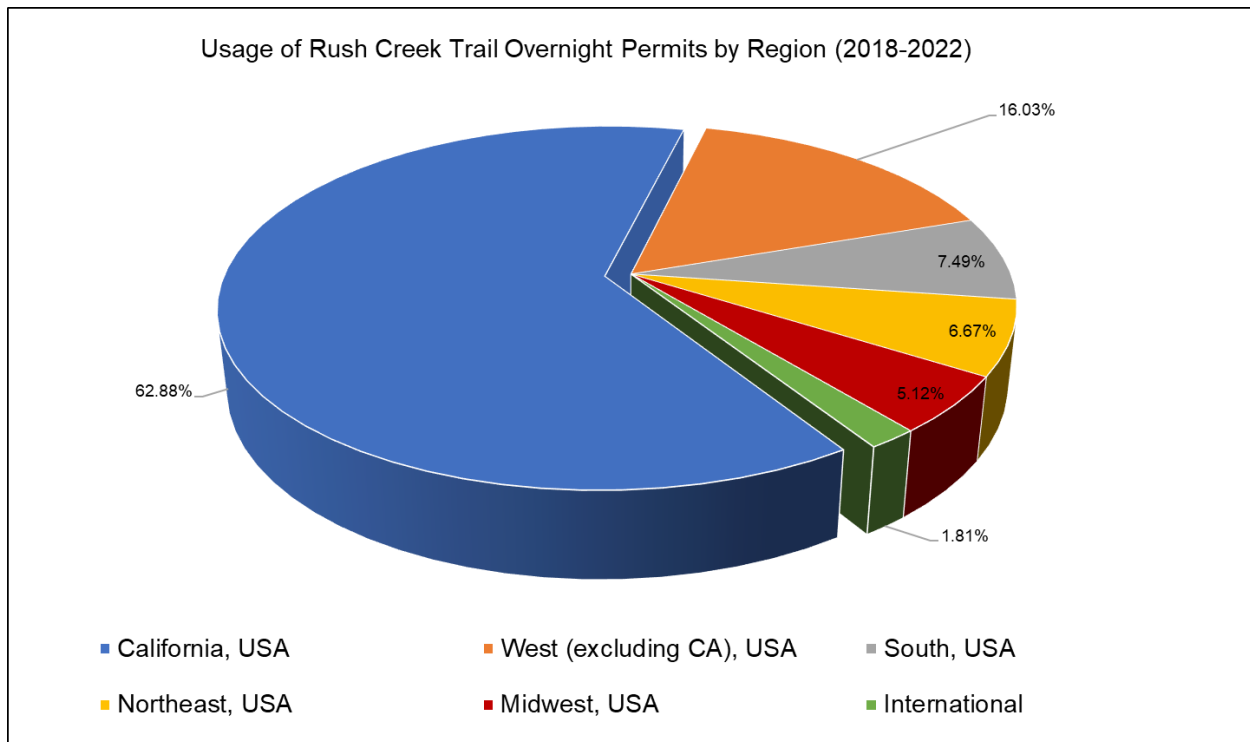
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## FIGURES

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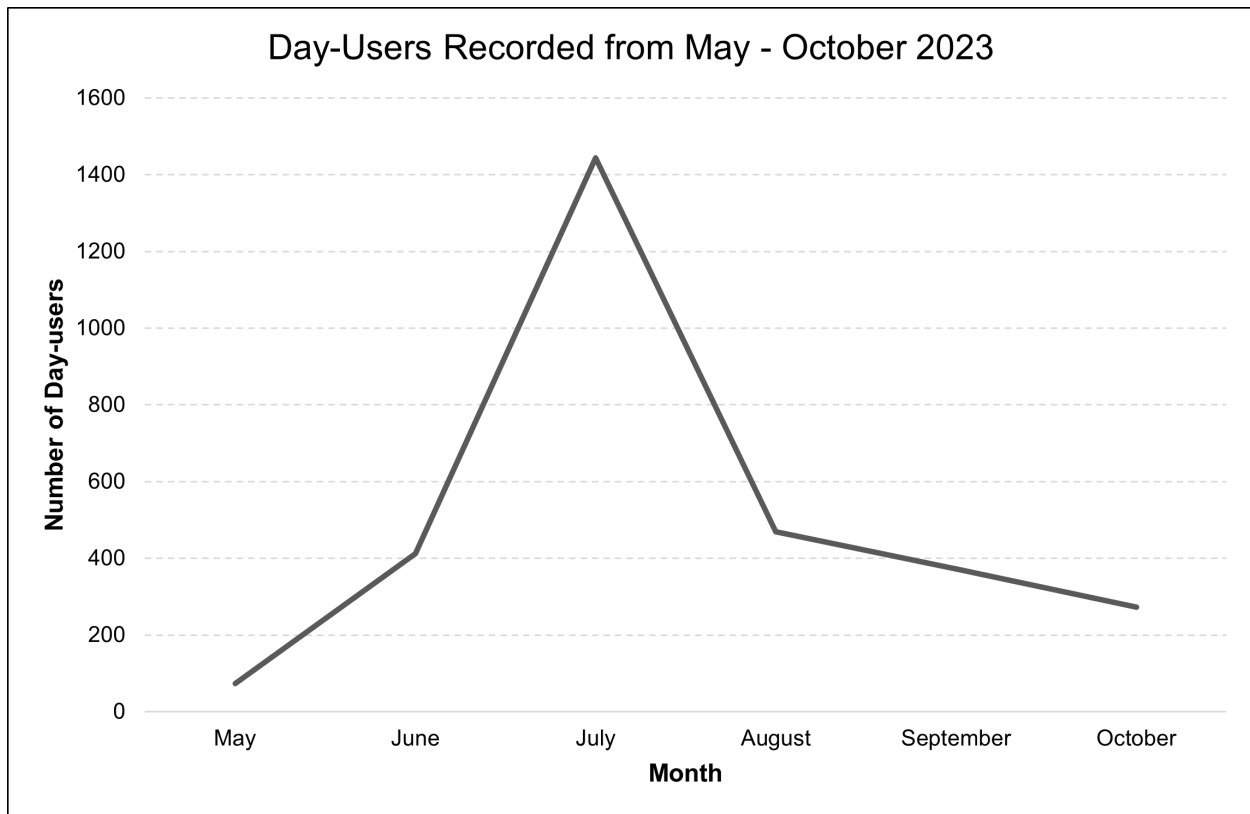


**Figure REC 1-1. Number of Permitted Overnight Visitors in the Rush Creek Drainage by Month: May 2019 to December 2022**

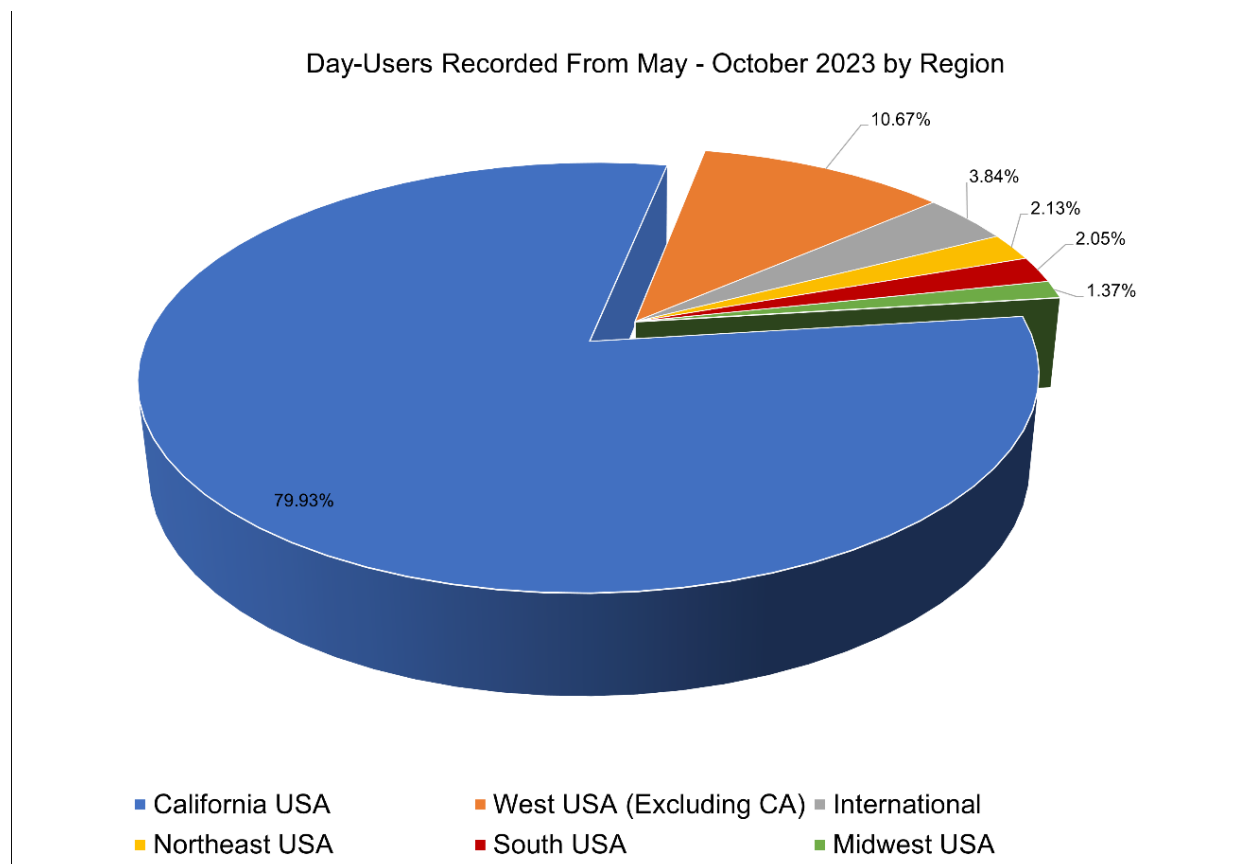


\* The western U.S. was defined as 13 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

**Figure REC 1-2. Percentage of Permitted Overnight Visitors in the Rush Creek Drainage by Region (September 2018 to December 2022)**



**Figure REC 1-3. Number of Recorded Day Users in the Rush Creek Drainage from May to October 2023**

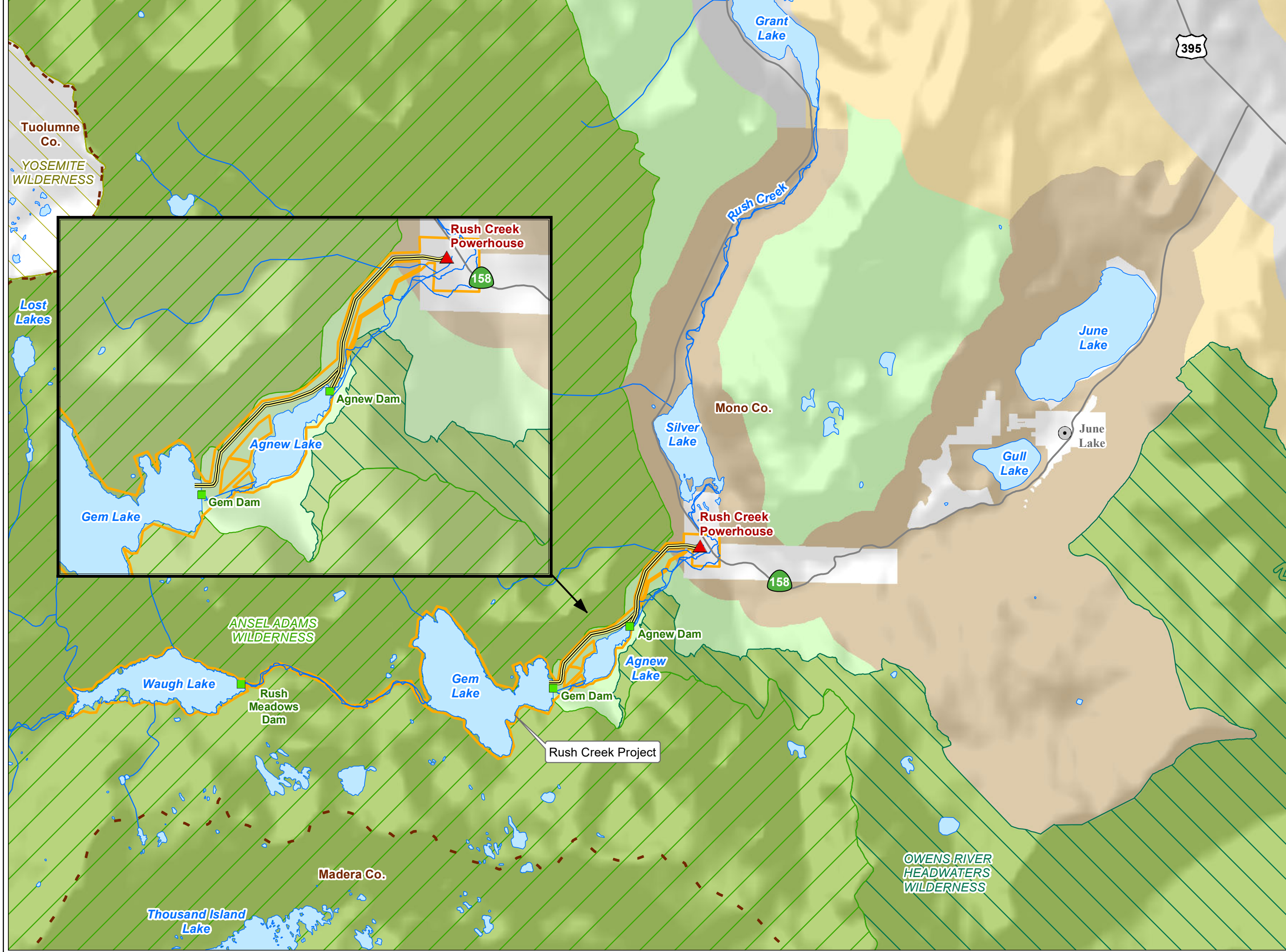


\* The western U.S. was defined as 13 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

**Figure REC 1-4. Percentage of Recorded Day Users in the Rush Creek Drainage by Region (May to October 2023)**

## MAPS

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**SCE Facilities**

- Dam
- Powerhouse
- Flowline / Penstock
- FERC Boundary

**Other Features**

- Major City/Town
- Highway
- River/Stream
- Lake
- County Boundary

**Recreation Opportunity Spectrum\***

- Modified/Roaded
- Natural/Roaded
- Rural
- Semi-Primitive/Non-motorized
- Primitive

\*SOURCE: USFS, 2019

**National Wilderness Areas**

- Ansel Adams Wilderness
- Owens River Headwaters Wilderness
- Yosemite Wilderness

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Rush Creek Project (FERC 1389)

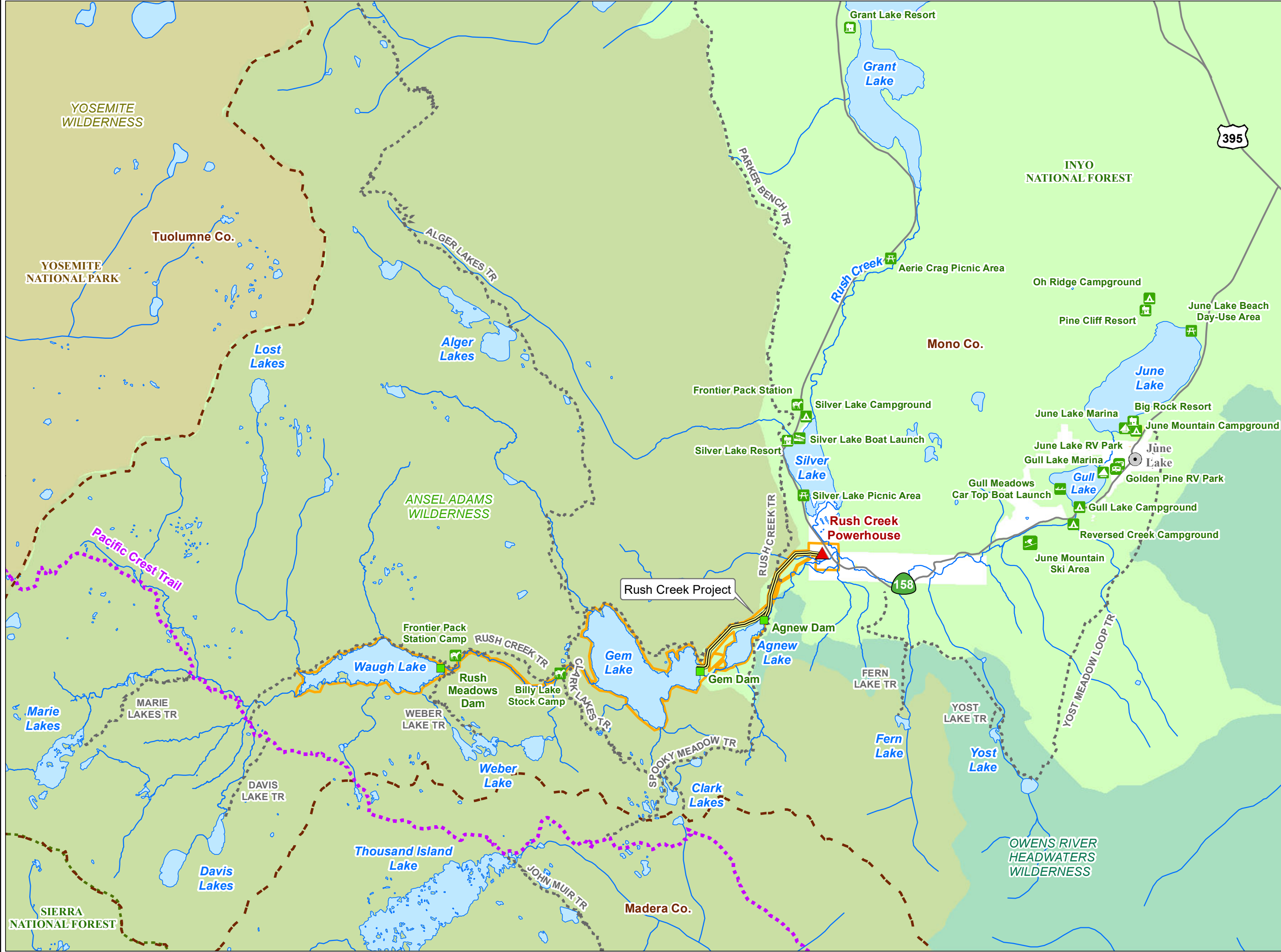
**Map REC 1-1**

**Recreation Resources Setting**

**Projection: UTM Zone 11**  
**Datum: NAD 83**

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SCE Facilities

- Dam
- Powerhouse
- Flowline / Penstock
- FERC Boundary

Other Features

- Major City/Town
- Highway
- River/Stream
- Lake
- County Boundary

Land Jurisdiction and National Wilderness Areas/Parks\*

- U.S. Forest Service
- Ansel Adams Wilderness (U.S. Forest Service)
- Owens River Headwaters Wilderness (U.S. Forest Service)
- Yosemite National Park / Yosemite Wilderness (National Park Service)
- Private (Blank)

\*SOURCES: BLM, 2020.  
Mono Co., 2019.  
Wilderness.net, 2019.

Developed Recreation Facilities and Trails

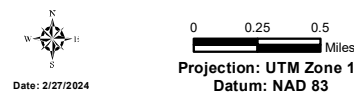
- Boat Launch
- Car Top Boat Launch
- Campground
- Day-Use Area and/or Picnic Area
- Pack Station
- Resort
- Marina
- RV Park
- Ski Area
- Pacific Crest Trail
- Other Major Trail



Rush Creek Project (FERC 1389)

Map REC 1-2

Developed Recreation Facilities in the Vicinity of the Rush Creek Project



Date: 2/27/2024

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**SCE Facilities**

Powerhouse


Dam

FERC Project Boundary

**Other Features**

Watercourse

Non-Project Trail




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Rush Creek Project (FERC 1389)

**Map REC 1-3**

**Location of Self-Registration Box**



0 500 1,000  
Feet

**Projection: UTM Zone 11**  
**Datum: NAD 83**

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# **APPENDIX A**

## **Ingress and Egress Forms**

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**Rush Creek Trail  
Day-Use and Angler Survey (ingress)  
Rush Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1389)**

Southern California Edison (SCE), in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife is soliciting input from Rush Creek Trail day-users and from anglers (days-users or overnight users) to better understand recreation use. This recreation study is part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing of the Rush Creek (P-1389) Hydroelectric Project. If you are a day-user or an angler, we request your help by completing the survey below. If you are traveling with multiple people, only one person in your party needs to fill out the survey. Participation is voluntary and responses will remain anonymous.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **a.m./p.m.**

**Weather:**

☐ Sunny   ☐ Partly Cloudy   ☐ Cloudy   ☐ Light Rain   ☐ Heavy Rain   ☐ Snowing

**Section 1 – Demographics**

1. What is your home zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How far did you travel from your home to get to this site today?

☐ 0–25 miles   ☐ 26–50 miles   ☐ 51–75 miles   ☐ 76–100 miles   ☐ 101+ miles

3. What is your age?

☐ Under 16   ☐ 16–19   ☐ 20–29   ☐ 30–39   ☐ 40–49   ☐ 50–59   ☐ 60–69   ☐ 70+

4. Including yourself, how many people 18 or older are in your party today?

\_\_\_\_\_ people in party

5. How many people under 18 are in your party today?

\_\_\_\_\_ people in party

**Section 2 – User Activities**

6. What is your destination today? (Check all that apply.)

☐ Horsetail Falls   ☐ Agnew Lake   ☐ Gem Lake   ☐ Waugh Lake   ☐ Pacific Crest Trail

☐ Another Trail, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

7. How many recreation trips have you made to the Rush Creek Trail in the past 12 months?

\_\_\_\_\_ trip(s) in the last 12 months

Continue on the other side please →

8. What is the primary recreation activity that you are undertaking on this trail today? (*Check only one main activity in the first column.*) What other recreation activities do you expect to participate in? (*Check all that apply in the second column.*)

Check only <u>one</u> main activity	Check all other activities	Type of activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	day-hiking
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	trail running
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	fishing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	horseback riding
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	photography
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	skiing/ski touring
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	camping
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	other

If you selected "other" please describe the recreation activity or activities that you are undertaking.

---

9. Have you fished from this trail before (including within Rush Creek or at Agnew, Gem, or Waugh lakes)?

**YES**

**NO**

If yes, how often have you fished from this trail over the past 12 months?

\_\_\_\_\_ fishing trips in the last 12 months.

If yes, approximately how many fish have you caught in the average prior visit?

\_\_\_\_\_ fish caught during an average prior visit.

**Section 3 – Anglers.** If you or someone in your party is fishing today, the following questions are for you. If you are not fishing today – please do not fill out this section.

10. How many hours to do you plan to fish during your trip?

\_\_\_\_\_ hours each day.

11. Do you plan to keep fish you catch, or release fish you catch (circle one).

**Keep**

**Release**

**Rush Creek Trail**  
**Encuesta de usuarios diurnos y pescadores (ingreso)**  
**Proyecto hidroeléctrico Rush Creek (FERC No. 1389)**

Southern California Edison (SCE), en colaboración con el Servicio Forestal de los Estados Unidos y La Comisión de Pesca y Caza, está solicitando encuestas de los usuarios diurnos del sendero Rush Creek y de los pescadores para comprender mejor el uso recreativo. Este estudio de recreación es parte de la renovación del permiso del Comisión Federal Reguladora de Energía del Proyecto Hidroeléctrico Rush Creek (P-1389). Si es un usuario diurno o un pescador, solicitamos su ayuda completando esta encuesta. Si viaja con varias personas, solo una persona de su grupo debe completar la encuesta. La participación es voluntaria y las respuestas permanecerán anónimas.

**Fecha:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hora:** \_\_\_\_\_ **am/pm**

**Clima:**

☐ Soleado ☐ Parcialmente nublado ☐ Nublado ☐ Lluvia ligera ☐ Fuerte Lluvia ☐ Nevando

**Sección 1 - Datos demográficos**

1. ¿Cuál es el código postal de su casa? \_\_\_\_\_

2. ¿Qué tan lejos viajó para llegar a este sitio hoy?

☐ 0–25 millas ☐ 26–50 millas ☐ 51–75 millas ☐ 76–100 millas ☐ 101+ millas

3. ¿Cuántos años tiene?

☐ Menos de 16 ☐ 16–19 ☐ 20–29 ☐ 30–39 ☐ 40–49 ☐ 50–59 ☐ 60–69 ☐ 70+

4. Incluido usted mismo, ¿cuántas personas mayores de 18 años hay en su grupo hoy?

\_\_\_\_\_ personas en su grupo

5. ¿Cuántas personas menores de 18 años hay en su grupo hoy?

\_\_\_\_\_ personas en su grupo

**Sección 2 – Actividades del Usuario**

6. ¿Cuál es su destino hoy? (Marque todo lo que corresponda.)

☐ Catarata Horsetail ☐ Lago Agnew ☐ Lago Gem ☐ Lago Waugh ☐ Sendero Pacific Crest

☐ Otro sendero, por favor especifique \_\_\_\_\_

7. ¿Cuántos viajes recreativos ha realizado al Sendero Rush Creek en los últimos 12 meses?

\_\_\_\_\_ viaje(s) en los últimos 12 meses

Continúa por otro lado por favor→

8. ¿Cuál es la principal actividad recreativa que está realizando hoy? (Marque solo una actividad principal en la primera columna). ¿En qué otras actividades recreativas espera participar? (Marque todo lo que corresponda en la segunda columna).

Marque solo <u>una</u> actividad principal	Marque todas las demás actividades	Tipo de actividades
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	excursión de un día
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	correr en los senderos
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	pescar
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	montar a caballo
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	fotografía
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	esquíar/esquíar de travesía
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	campamento
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	otro

Si seleccionó "otro", describa la actividad o actividades recreativas que está haciendo.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Sección 3 – Pescadores** . Si usted o alguien de su grupo está pescando hoy, las siguientes preguntas son para usted. Si no va a pescar hoy, no complete esta sección.

9. ¿Cuántas horas planea pescar durante su viaje?

\_\_\_\_\_ horas cada día.

10. ¿Planea sacar los peces que captura o liberarlos (marque uno con un círculo)?

**Sacar**

**Liberar**

11. ¿Ha pescado cerca de este sendero antes (incluso dentro de Rush Creek o en los lagos Agnew, Gem o Waugh)?

**Sí**

**No**

En caso afirmativo, ¿con qué frecuencia ha pescado durante los últimos 12 meses en el área de Rush Creek?

\_\_\_\_\_ excursiones de pesca en los últimos 12 meses.

En caso afirmativo, ¿aproximadamente cuántos peces promedio ha pescado en las excursiones anteriores en el área de Rush Creek?

\_\_\_\_\_ peces agarrados promedio durante las visitas anteriores en el área de Rush Creek.

**Rush Creek Trail  
Day-Use and Angler Survey (egress)  
Rush Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1389)**

Southern California Edison (SCE), in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife is soliciting input from Rush Creek Trail day-users and from anglers (days-users or overnight users) to better understand recreation use. This recreation study is part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing of the Rush Creek (P-1389) Hydroelectric Project. If you are a day-user or an angler, we request your help by completing the survey below. If you are traveling with multiple people, only one person in your party needs to fill out the survey. Participation is voluntary and responses will remain anonymous.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **a.m./p.m.**

**Section 1 – Demographics**

1. What is your home zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How far did you travel to visit this area?

☐ 0–25 miles ☐ 26–50 miles ☐ 51–75 miles ☐ 76–100 miles ☐ 101+ miles

3. What is your age?

☐ Under 16 ☐ 16–19 ☐ 20–29 ☐ 30–39 ☐ 40–49 ☐ 50–59 ☐ 60–69 ☐ 70+

4. Including yourself, how many people 18 or older were in your party today?

\_\_\_\_\_ people in party

5. How many people under 18 were in your party today?

\_\_\_\_\_ people in party

**Section 2 – User Activities**

6. Where did you travel to/from today? (Check all that apply.)

☐ Horsetail Falls ☐ Agnew Lake ☐ Gem Lake ☐ Waugh Lake ☐ Pacific Crest Trail

☐ Another Trail, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

7. How many recreation trips have you made to the Rush Creek Trail in the past 12 months?

\_\_\_\_\_ trip(s) in the last 12 months

8. What was the primary recreation activity that you undertook today? (*Check only one main activity in the first column.*) What other recreation activities did you participate in? (*Check all that apply in the second column.*)

Check only <u>one</u> main activity	Check all other activities	Type of activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	day-hiking
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	trail running
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	fishing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	horseback riding
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	photography
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	skiing/ski touring
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	other

If you selected "other" please describe the recreation activity or activities that you undertook.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3 – Anglers Daily Fishing Results.** If you or someone in your party fished today, the following questions are for you.

Hours Fished: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Gear Type Used:

☐ Bait    ☐ Lure                      ☐ Fly

Where did you fish today? (Check all that apply.)

☐ Rush Creek   ☐ Agnew Lake   ☐ Gem Lake   ☐ Waugh Lake

☐ Other Waterbody, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Brown Trout Caught \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Rainbow Trout Caught \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Other Fish Caught \_\_\_\_\_

If "Other Fish," please specify type of fish

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you fished from this trail before (including within Rush Creek or at Agnew, Gem, or Waugh lakes)?

**YES**

**NO**

If yes, how often have you fished from this trail over the past 12 months?

\_\_\_\_\_ fishing trips in the last 12 months.

If yes, approximately how many fish have you caught in the average prior visit?

\_\_\_\_\_ fish caught during an average prior visit.