

FERC's Environmental Inspection Program

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

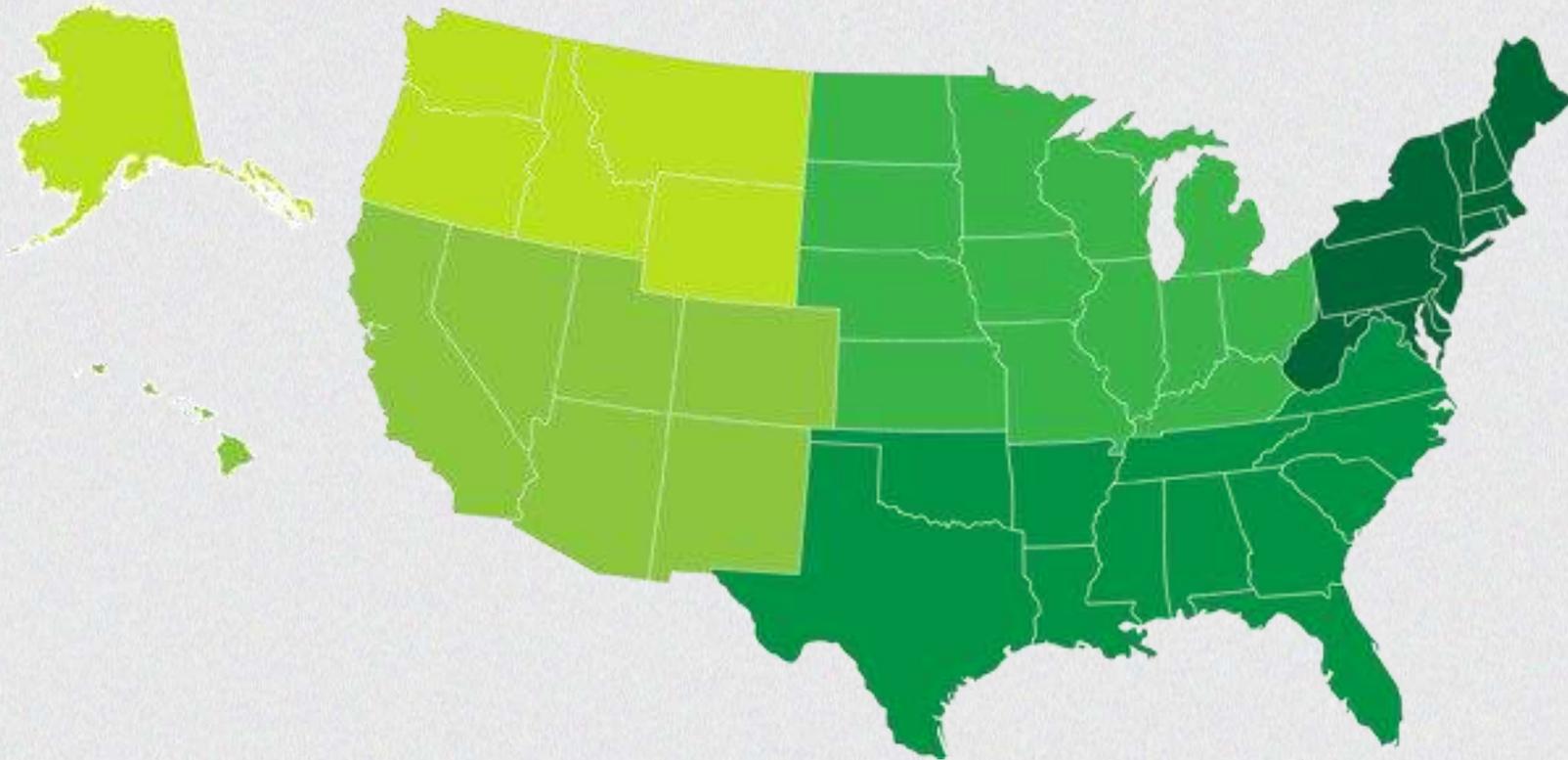
Basis for Environmental Inspections

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Article 4. The project, including its operation and maintenance and any work incidental to additions or alterations authorized by the Commission, whether or not conducted upon lands of the United States, **shall be subject to the inspection and supervision** of the Regional Engineer, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, in the region wherein the project is located, or of such other officer or agent as the Commission may designate, who shall be the authorized representative of the Commission for such purposes.

FERC Inspection Staff

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Objectives of Environmental Inspection Program

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- Review on-site compliance and assist licensees in bringing the project into compliance with license requirements
- Reconcile approved plans in the field
- Respond to public or resource agency complaints
- Provide input to licensee's request for input on specific issues

Project Selection

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- History of non-compliance
- Newly constructed project features
- Recently implemented plans
- Public safety incidents
- Construction in progress
- Public or resource agency complaints
- Licensee-requested

Elements of an Environmental Inspection

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- Background Research
- Pre-Meeting
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Public Safety
- Other Environmental Resources
- Shoreline Development
- Recreation Resources
- Post-inspection meeting and follow-up

Background Research

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- License Articles
- Standard Articles (L-Form)
- 4(e) Conditions
- RPA Conditions
- Settlement Agreements
- Approved Plans
- Form 80
- Public Safety Plans



Pre-meeting

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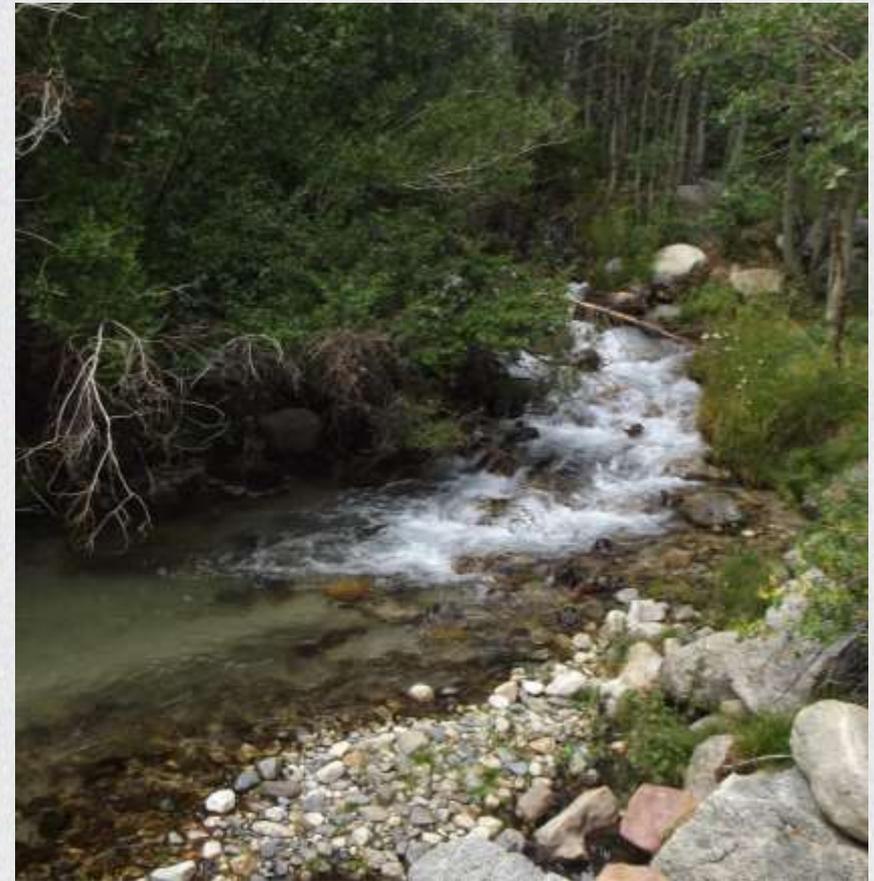
- Introductions
- Review schedule and facilities to inspect
- Review safety precautions
- Travel logistics



Biological Resources

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- Minimum Flows
- Fish Passage
- Erosion/Sedimentation
- Mitigation/Restoration Areas



Minimum Flows

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- Physical inspection of gages (staff, float, bubble, ADV) vs. rating table
- Comparison vs. license requirement
- Integrity and maintenance of weir



Fish Passage

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- Sufficient water depth and velocity
- Integrity of structure
- Free of Debris
- Plunge pool depth for downstream passage
- Mechanical operation



Erosion/Sedimentation

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- Construction worksite
- Discharge locations
- Sluicing
- Spill channels



Mitigation/Restoration Areas

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- Establishment of mitigation areas
- Wetlands
- Wildlife refuges
- Revegetation success



Cultural Resources

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- Adequate site protection/exclusion
- Interpretive signage
- Public safety



Public Safety

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- Signage
- Boating barriers
- Swimming barriers
- Sirens
- Plan consistency



Public Safety

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- Signage
- Boating barriers
- Swimming barriers
- Sirens
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Public Safety

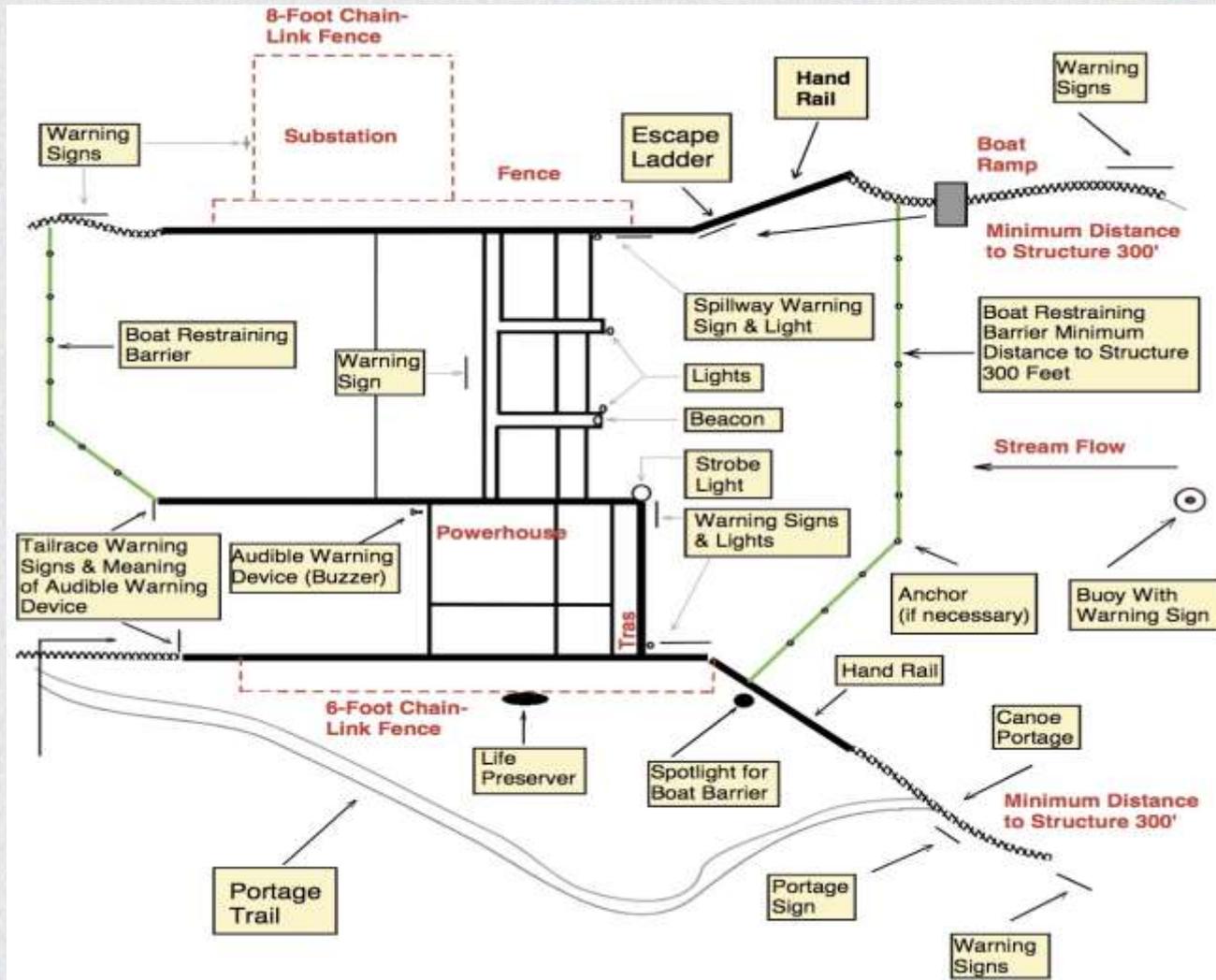
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- Signage
- Boating barriers
- Swimming barriers
- Sirens
- Plan consistency



Public Safety Plan Consistency

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Other Environmental Resources

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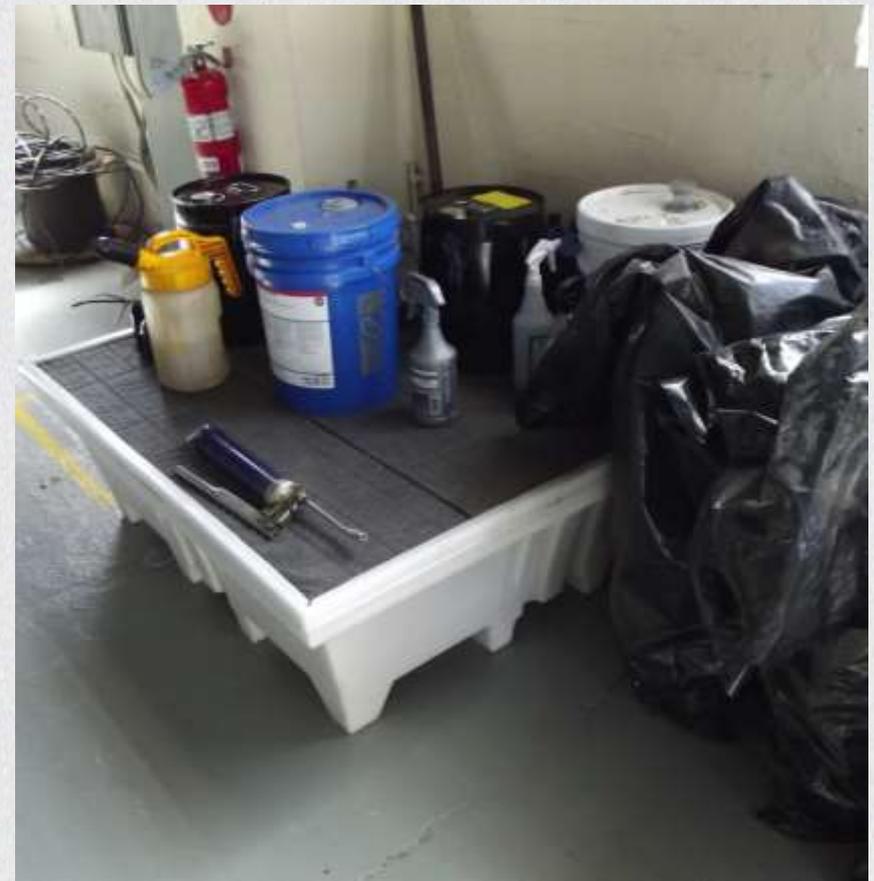
- Secondary containment
- Hazardous materials
- Fire protection
- Fuel storage
- Fueling Emergency shutoff



Other Environmental Resources

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Other Environmental Resources

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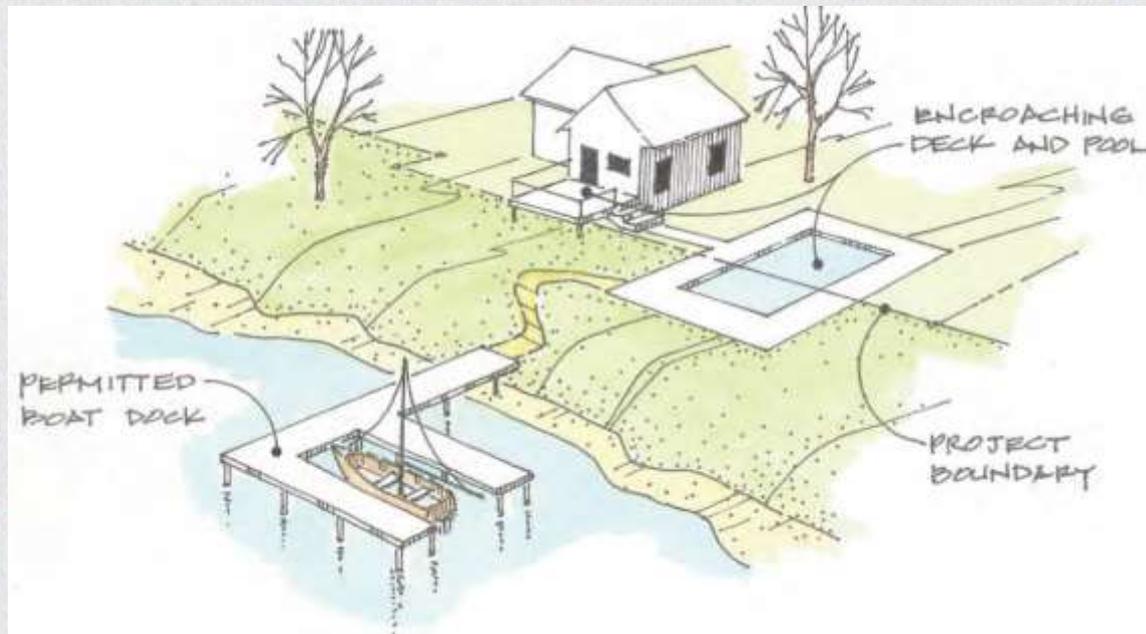
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Shoreline Development

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- Commission staff may compare the plan with the current conditions observed in the field
- Note encroachments



Recreation Resources

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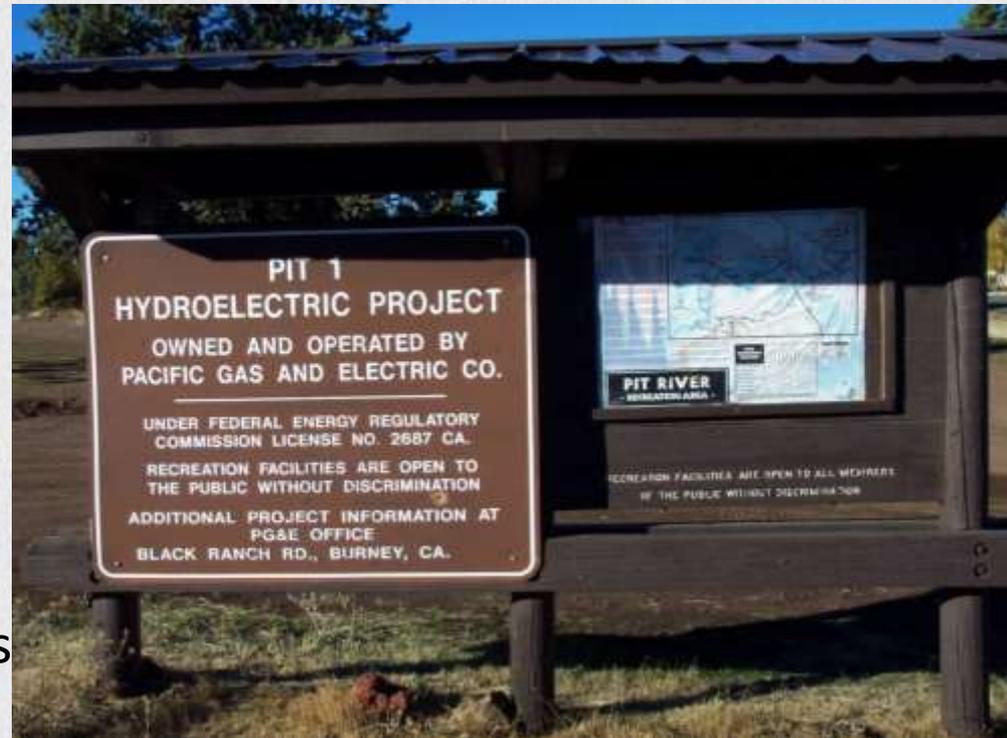
- Part 8 Signage
- Adequate access
- Recreation Plans



Part 8 Signage

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- Name of the project and the owner
- Licensed by the Commission and the project number
- Directions to recreation use areas
- Permissible times and activities
- Advising that further information may be obtained at local licensee offices
- Notice that the recreation facilities are open to all members of the public without discrimination.



Recreation Access

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- Licensee shall allow the public free access, **to a reasonable extent**, to project waters and adjacent project lands owned by the Licensee for the purpose of full public utilization of such lands and waters for navigation and for outdoor recreational purposes, including fishing and hunting (L-Form Articles)



Recreation Plans

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- During the inspection approved recreation plans and as-built drawings may be reconciled with site conditions
- Any discrepancies and recommended follow up actions are discussed while in the field



Recreation Tables

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Commission staff will develop recreation tables for three different situations:

- As part of orders approving recreation plans or recreation plan amendments.
- As part of processing as-built site plan drawing.
- In response to licensee submitted tables and/or a licensee's request for assistance in developing the tables with no order pending.

Recreation Site Name	Recreation Facilities
Mission Tailwater Access Area and Canoe Portage/Peavine Trail	canoe take-out and an 850-foot-long portage trail; signage for the canoe portage; boat ramp; parking for five vehicles and four vehicles with trailers; entrance sign and information kiosk; and a 2,218-foot-long trail with wayfinding signage

Top 5 Recreational Deficiencies

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5. Recreation use outside of established areas

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4. Vandalism

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- Graffiti
- Broken facilities



3. Signage

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- Placement not visible
- Size
- Damage
- Fading
- Out-of-date



2. Deferred Maintenance

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1. Inconsistency with Recreation Plan

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- New facilities constructed without plan amendment
- Approved/required facilities not found on site
- Location of facilities does not correspond with plan
- Numerical inconsistency



Recreation Ground Truthing (Conceptual)

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- Specialized inspection where only the license recreation requirements are reviewed in the field
- Could include the review of:
 - ✧ Form 80 data on file
 - ✧ Approved Recreation Plan
 - ✧ As-Built Drawing of Recreation Facilities
 - ✧ Recreation Tables
- Could also include the review of Shoreline Management Plans and Public Safety Plans to extent that elements of these plans are often integrated into the development of the Recreation Plan approval.

Post-Inspection Meeting and Follow-up

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- Post-inspection follow-up letter within 1-2 weeks
- Follow-up correction items based on magnitude
- Plans and schedules for some corrective measures
- Inspection report on eLibrary

Questions?

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Article 17. The Licensee shall construct, maintain, and operate, or shall arrange for the construction, maintenance, and operation of such reasonable recreational facilities, including modifications thereto, such as access roads, wharves, launching ramps, beaches, picnic and camping areas, sanitary facilities, and utilities, giving consideration to the needs of the physically handicapped, and shall comply with such reasonable modifications of the project, as may be prescribed hereafter by the Commission during the term of this license upon its own motion or upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior or other interested Federal or State agencies, after notice and opportunity for hearing.

Article 18. So far as is consistent with proper operation of the project, the Licensee shall allow the public free access, to a reasonable extent, to project waters and adjacent project lands owned by the Licensee for the purpose of full public utilization of such lands and waters for navigation and for outdoor recreational purposes, including fishing and hunting: Provided, that the Licensee may reserve from public access such portions of the project waters, adjacent lands, and project facilities as may be necessary for the protection of life, health, and property.

Article 19. In the construction, maintenance, or operation of the project, the Licensee shall be responsible for, and shall take reasonable measures to prevent, soil erosion on lands adjacent to streams or other waters, stream sedimentation, and any form of water or air pollution. The Commission, upon request or upon its own motion, may order the Licensee to take such measures as the Commission finds to be necessary for these purposes, after notice and opportunity for hearing.







