

# **EXHIBIT E – ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

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## **SUBPART E.7 RECREATIONAL RESOURCES**

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### **SUBPART E.7 RECREATIONAL RESOURCES**

#### **E.7.1 INTRODUCTION**

Exhibit E.7 describes the existing recreational resources in the Project Area and the Project Vicinity; provisions for public access and shoreline buffers; existing and future recreational use of the Project Area; existing and proposed initial and future recreational facilities and measures, including costs and financing; and measures or facilities recommended by agencies. Some of this information was synthesized from reports and information available for this area. Additional information was gathered from surveys and studies conducted in consultation with applicable state and federal agencies in accordance with Title 18, Part 4, Section 51 of the Code of Federal Regulations (18 CFR 4.51): Application for Major Modified Project-Existing Dam.

The description of existing recreational resources addresses safety features and other features used by recreational users in the Project Area. It also describes recreational features of the Project Vicinity, including the Great Northern Railroad Corridor and Pacific Northwest Trail and the proposed Greater Columbia Water Trail. In addition, it addresses the subject of federally-designated lands, including the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the National Trails System, and the Federal Wilderness System.

The discussion of recreational use includes estimates of current and future use based on a visitor intercept survey conducted in 2006, recreation participation trends in Washington State, and the projected growth rate for the area.

The section of this exhibit headed “Enhancements” includes agency recommendations, a proposed recreation plan, and an explanation of why the District has rejected some of the measures and facilities recommended.

#### **E.7.2 EXISTING RECREATIONAL RESOURCES, ACCESS AND USE**

##### **FEDERALLY-DESIGNATED LANDS**

No lands within or in the vicinity of the proposed Project Boundary have been designated for study or use under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the National Trails System, or the federal Wilderness System.

The Similkameen River is not included and has not been designated for study for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (USFWS 2007).

The National Trails System includes recreation trails, scenic trails, historic trails, connecting or side trails, and uniform markers (NPS 2007b). Currently, there are no designated National Scenic or Historic Trails listed in the Project Area (NPS 2007a).

No lands within or adjacent to the Enloe Dam FERC Project Area have been designated as or studied for inclusion in the Federal Wilderness system. The Chopaka Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) is located about 13 miles west of the Project Area; however, in July of 1992, the entire 5,518 acre WSA was recommended as “non-suitable” for designation as wilderness (BLM 2006).

## **EXISTING RECREATIONAL RESOURCES**

### **Recreational Resources within the Project Boundary**

The following describes existing features that have been provided to ensure visitor safety and existing recreational resources within the Project Boundary. Safety features provided within the Project Area include:

- Warning signs, in English and Spanish, adjacent to the reservoir
- A safety cable and grab ropes across the reservoir above the dam
- A safety railing with warning signs on the east bank, above the dam

At present, all recreational access and resources within the Project Area are informal, and have been developed through use, over time. There are no existing facilities designed to meet the needs of people with physical disabilities. The following features are used by visitors:

- Upstream and downstream access roads, leading from the Loomis-Oroville Road to the Project Area. Neither access road is maintained for passenger vehicles. The upstream access road (Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District Road) is impassable in spring and early summer. It is inundated during the spring runoff and remains muddy for some time after the peak flow period. Heavy brush impedes clearance. The road is heavily rutted and steep in places. It is a single-lane road with poor visibility in places. The downstream access road (Enloe Dam Road) is very steep with exposed embankments, heavily rutted, and heavily eroded in places; it is also a single-lane road
- Informal/unimproved reservoir access ramps located just upstream from the safety barrier
- Old powerhouse eastbank access road, providing foot access to the shoreline area below the dam for boaters, miners, fishers, hikers
- Informal/unimproved parking area near the top of the dam

- Informal/unimproved user trails providing access to the reservoir above the dam
- Informal/unimproved user trails providing access to the river below the dam
- Informal/unimproved camping areas on the east bank of the reservoir

While the reservoir behind Enloe Dam is relatively accessible from the east bank, terrain limits access from the west bank. Terrain also limits access to the portion of the Project Area downstream of the dam. Below the Dam and falls, the Similkameen River is confined between nearly sheer rock walls until the canyon opens just below the railroad trestle (the downstream limit of the Study Area, approximately two miles downstream from Enloe Dam). This downstream canyon area is accessible only on foot from the east bank, via game and user trails. Access to the west bank is limited because the old rail bed crosses private land and is gated. From the west bank, access crosses private land and occurs via game and user trails leading to the river from the rail grade which sits nearly 100 feet, in places, above the river.

The only other means of access is by boat, either floating downstream or, in higher water, using a power boat to travel upstream. Steep terrain makes access to the reservoir difficult from the west bank, as well.

### **Recreational Resources Outside of the Project Boundary**

Most of the land surrounding the Project Area is managed by the BLM (see Figure E.9-2). The following paragraphs describe existing recreational resources close to the proposed Project within the Project Vicinity (see Figure E.7-1).

During spring through fall, recreation activities in the Similkameen River corridor include fishing, hunting, swimming, paddle sports (canoeing, kayaking, and river rafting), picnicking, camping, hiking, biking (road touring and mountain biking), ATV riding, horseback riding, gold prospecting, bird and wildlife watching, photography, and scenic driving. Fishing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing are possible in winter.

There are no existing developed recreational facilities or public access points in the Project Vicinity. The developed campground nearest the Project Area is about 4 miles east of Enloe Dam, in Osoyoos Lake State Veteran's Memorial Park. WDFW owns two river access sites on the Similkameen River upstream of the Project Area. The site known as Cutchie #4 is located about seven miles west of Oroville on the Loomis-Oroville Road. The site is surrounded by private land and so is accessible only from the river, not from the road. There are no developed facilities at the site. The site known as Cutchie #3 is located about 1.5 miles south of Nighthawk on the Loomis-Oroville Road. There is a rough boat launch at the site, but no developed facilities. Many sites in the Project Vicinity, both within and outside the Project Area, are used for primitive

camping. Popular sites close to the Project Area include Miners' Flat and Similkameen Camp.

Miners' Flat is a large bench on BLM land about three miles upstream of Enloe Dam. Recreational users have developed several fire rings on the flat. Several trails and a rough road provide access to the river. Similkameen Camp is a primitive campground maintained by the BLM approximately 2.5 miles upstream from the Project Boundary and 5 miles upstream from Enloe Dam. The campground is used an estimated 1,000 visitor days per year (Priebe 2006).

Terrain limits access to the river between Miners' Flat and the Loomis-Oroville Road intersection with the upstream access road. However, near the apex of Shanker's Bend users have created a primitive access point at which boats can be removed from the river.

The Oroville Golf Club, built in 1959, is located on benchlands above the Similkameen River about one mile downstream from the Project Site. The facility is open to the public from March 1 through October 1 and includes a 9-hole, par 36 course.

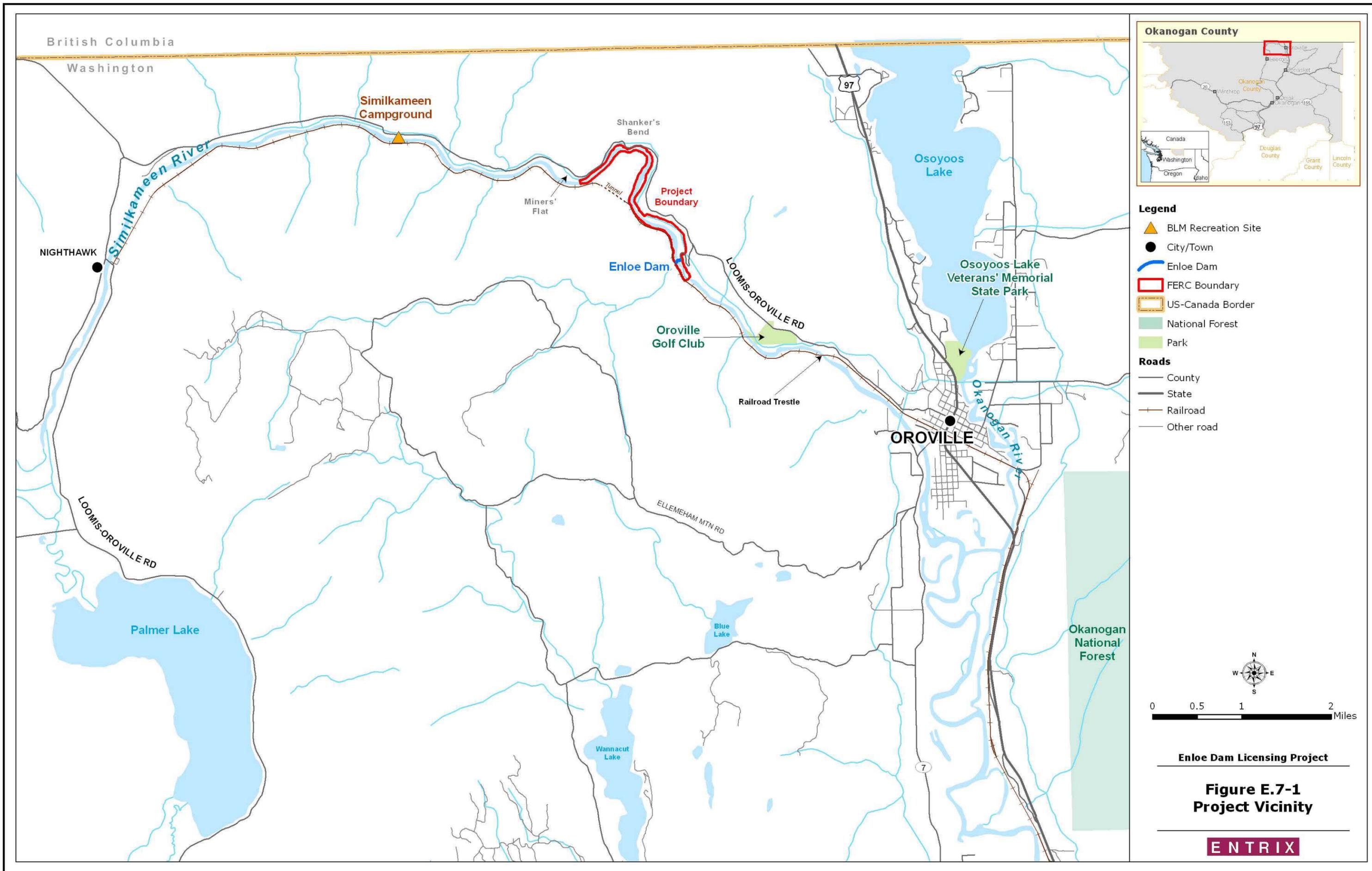
### **Great Northern Railroad Corridor and Pacific Northwest Trail**

The corridor of the now-defunct Great Northern Railroad runs through the Similkameen River valley, roughly following the west bank of the Similkameen River from the rail trestle bridge at the lower end of the Project Area upstream. The old railroad passes through a tunnel near the upstream end of the Project Area. Parts of the grade lie within the Project Area.

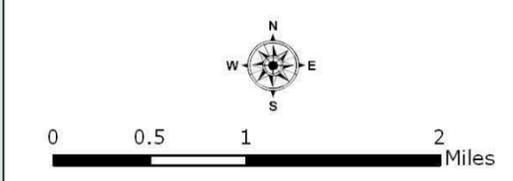
The Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT), which traverses the Similkameen River corridor, is a 1,200 mile multi-use recreation trail from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean (The Pacific Northwest Trail Association 2007). The PNT is neither a National Scenic Trail nor a National Historic Trail (NPS 2007a). Currently, the Loomis-Oroville Road in the vicinity of the Project Area is designated as a segment of the PNT. However, a new trail segment has been proposed for development on the defunct railroad bed that roughly follows the Similkameen River between Oroville and Nighthawk. The District is cooperating with Okanogan County in developing a multi-use trail that follows the old railroad grade downstream of the Project Area.

Much of the Great Northern Railroad corridor is currently owned by the BLM. The District owns various portions of the right-of-way. Until recently, the District also owned the trestle bridge that spans the Similkameen River about two miles downstream of Enloe Dam. The District recently provided an easement over the bridge to Okanogan County, and collaborated with the county on an agreement for re-decking of the bridge that would accommodate both recreational users and equipment used by the District for maintaining the proposed power generation facilities.

[ Figure E.7-1 ]



- Legend**
- ▲ BLM Recreation Site
  - City/Town
  - Enloe Dam
  - FERC Boundary
  - US-Canada Border
  - National Forest
  - Park
- Roads**
- County
  - State
  - Railroad
  - Other road



**Enloe Dam Licensing Project**

**Figure E.7-1  
Project Vicinity**



Okanogan County's 2004 *Outdoor Recreation Plan* describes the proposed trail under the heading "Oroville to Nighthawk Trail" (Okanogan County 2004). The *Outdoor Recreation Plan* states "This project entails development of pedestrian/non-motorized trail on the old Great Northern Railroad corridor. The project starts at the town of Oroville and crosses the Similkameen River on a 370-foot span steel girder bridge, passing through a 1,832 foot tunnel and ending in Nighthawk. The 12.4-mile trail is in the planning and preliminary design stage with funding being sought from a variety of sources to complete the estimated "\$1,200,000 project".

Okanogan County succeeded in obtaining grant funds in 2005 from the State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) for trail construction. The District has provided Okanogan County with a right-of-way over District lands along the trail corridor. Current plans call for the first leg of the trail to begin in Oroville and run upstream to just below the District's FERC Project Boundary. In the future, Okanogan County plans to extend the trail past the Project Area; however, to date agreements have not been executed with owners of land upstream of the lower end of the FERC Project Boundary (Murray 2008).

### **Greater Columbia Water Trail**

The Greater Columbia Water Trail Steering Committee (GCWTSC) is developing a work plan for a water trail catering to canoes and kayaks in the Columbia Basin. The route of the proposed trail would include the Similkameen River from the Canadian border to the confluence with the Okanogan River at Oroville. The GCWTSC, working with federal, state, and local partners, proposes to develop infrastructure including launch sites, directional signs, educational signs, sanitary sites, and campsites (Sobinovsky 2007). The District's proposed PM&Es will provide facilities and measures similar to those the GCWTSC is seeking, providing added benefits to the trail. The District proposes to collaborate with the GCWTSC by using sign templates developed by the GCWTSC and shoreline markers of the type specified by the GCWTSC in implementing the proposed PM&Es at the Enloe Dam site.

## **PUBLIC ACCESS AND SHORELINE BUFFER ZONES**

This section addresses public access and the proposed shoreline buffer zone. The paragraphs headed "Public Access" discuss public access to Project lands and waters. The paragraphs headed "Shoreline Area" discuss protection of the scenic, public recreational, cultural, and other environmental values of the reservoir shoreline.

### **Public Access**

Virtually all of the land within the Project Boundary is publicly owned, and managed by either the BLM (lands above the pre-inundation OHWM) or the WDNR (bedlands and pre-inundation shorelands). Land ownership is discussed in greater detail in Exhibit E.9. Most of the land abutting the Project Boundary is publicly owned. Private land adjoins

the Project Area near its upstream end for a distance of about 2,100 feet. Land ownership is shown in Figure E.9-2.

The District does not propose to limit public access to Project lands and waters within the Project Boundary except as necessary for public safety and the security of Project facilities. Proposed changes to the existing access road are described in detail in Exhibit A.

A security fence (shown on Map 2 of 4, Exhibit G) would be built on the landward side of the power generation facilities. The fence would separate the power generation facilities from the proposed public access road and would serve as a safety barrier between areas accessible to the public and Enloe Dam.

The remainder of the land and water areas within the Project Area would remain accessible. Additional information about public access to the Project Area is included in Exhibit E.9.

### **Shoreline Area**

At the time of this writing, Okanogan County is in the process of updating its Shoreline Master Program (SMP). Adoption of an updated SMP is tentatively scheduled for 2009. The text that follows is based on the current SMP provisions.

In accordance with the state's Shoreline Management Act (SMA), Washington State has designated the Similkameen River and associated shoreline areas as shorelines of the state, which are subject to the provisions of the County's Shoreline Master Program (SMP). In Okanogan County, shorelines of the state include water areas and shorelands extending 200 feet landward, on a horizontal plane, from the OHWM, or the one-hundred year floodplain, whichever is greater (Okanogan County 1987). The SMA and the SMP provide for protection of shoreline functions and values, including physical and visual access to the shoreline (Shoreline Management Act of 1971).

The SMP designates all of the shoreline area within the proposed Project Boundary as "Conservancy." Shoreline areas in the Project Vicinity are designated either "Rural" (from the Okanogan River upstream as far as the E ½ of the NE ¼ of S. 19, T. 40, R. 27) or "Conservancy" (beginning at the upstream limit of the Rural shoreline environment and continuing upstream throughout the area of shoreline jurisdiction). According to the SMP, "The Conservancy Environment is an area containing a resource capable of sustained yield. Forest products, hunting, fishing, agriculture, and many types of recreation are examples of uses compatible with this environment. The intent of this environment is to maintain the existing character of the shoreline" (Okanogan County 1987).

As provided in the SMP, the proposed project would require a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit. The County may condition that permit to ensure adequate

protection of shoreline functions and values. The shoreline area would function as a buffer zone for protection of the environmental values of the reservoir shoreline.

While the provisions of the County's updated SMP may differ from those above, the SMP would continue to provide for protection of water areas and shorelands extending 200 feet landward, on a horizontal plane, from the OHWM. The updated SMP may also include the one-hundred year floodplain in the area under shoreline jurisdiction.

## **RECREATIONAL USE**

The river corridor in the vicinity of the Project Area is lightly used, with no developed camping or recreation facilities. As of 2006, there was only one commercial outfitter who ran guided trips on the river. Because there are no developed recreational facilities in the Enloe Project Area, all recreational use is informal.

### **Existing Recreational Use**

This section describes existing recreational uses of the Project Area. It includes an overview of the survey conducted to assess the types and levels of recreational use of the Project Area, and brief descriptions of the most popular uses in the Project Area. More detail is provided in the recreational survey report, which includes a description of survey methodology and detailed results. It is attached as Appendix E.7.1.

### **Assessing Recreational Use**

A visitor intercept survey was conducted during the June 1-October 15 peak recreation season in 2006 to gather information that would allow the District to estimate visitor use of the Project Area and prepare a proposal for development of new measures and facilities and maintenance of existing ones. The paragraphs below include a summary of the survey results and outcomes.

It is important to note that, because surveys were conducted during only one recreational use season (2006), it is assumed that 2006 was an "average" recreational use year. High water levels in 2006 affected conditions for boating and gold prospecting, two popular activities in the Project Area, and could have led to unusual use levels.

Specific objectives of the survey were as follows:

- Describe the types and levels of recreational use in the Project Area;
- Assess visitor preferences regarding preservation and enhancement of recreational opportunities in the Project Area;
- Evaluate visitor attitudes regarding the need for additional safety facilities in the Project Area; and

- Assess the need for other measures to enhance visitors' recreational experiences in the Project Area

Surveys were conducted in a Study Area that is larger than the Project Area. The expanded area was used because of the small size of the Project Area and the fact that the Similkameen River is used for raft, canoe, and kayak trips that cover some distance. It was assumed that visitors might begin using the river upstream of the Project Area and complete their trips within the Project Area or, conversely, begin using the river within the Project Area and complete those trips outside of the Project Area. The larger survey area is not intended to indicate that recreational improvements would be planned or implemented outside the Project Area.

Key findings of the survey are:

- Use of the Project Area is estimated at 1,378 user days during the June 1-October 15 peak recreation season.
- Most camping is done outside the Project Area. It appears that very few visitors camp within the Project Area.
- Mining is the most popular use in the Study Area, followed by boating, shore fishing, and sightseeing. Most mining is done outside the Project Area.
- Shore fishing and boating are the most popular uses in the Project Area.
- Access to the river corridor below the dam is important to visitors.
- Most visitors to the Project Area are satisfied with the recreational opportunities available.
- Few visitors to the Project Area expressed a desire for safety features.
- Few visitors to the Project Area assigned a high priority to the provision of additional facilities.
- Vault toilets, garbage collection, and improved river access were the improvements for which visitors saw the greatest need.
- Picnic facilities were nearly as popular, and were assigned a high priority by more than one-quarter of all respondents.

### **Levels of Use**

Recreational use estimates are based on 59 survey records completed with respondents in the field on 21 days from June 1 through October 15, 2006. Due to the small number of samples, the results should be considered a rough estimate. Surveys

were conducted on weekdays, weekend days, and “peak” days (selected holiday weekends). Use was highest on peak days.

Table E.7-1 provides an estimate of monthly user-days during the June-October recreation season. Use peaks quickly (in July) and remains at a fairly constant level from August through October. Table E.7-2 indicates estimated user days by type of day. In this area, weekend and weekday use levels are similar, but peak days show a marked increase in use.

**Table E.7-1  
Estimate of User Days by Month—Project Area**

Month	Estimated User Days (Project Area)	
	#	%
June	190	13.8
July	346	25.1
August	267	19.4
September	278	20.2
October	297	21.6
TOTAL	1,378	100.00

**Table E.7-2  
Estimate of User Days by Type of Day—Project Area**

	Estimated User Days (Project Area)	
	#	Per day
Peak days <sup>1</sup>	540	14
Weekend days	190	6
Weekdays	648	6
TOTAL	1,378	

Thirty-three surveys (60 percent) reported stays of longer than one day. Twenty-three (42 percent of the total; 70 percent of overnights) of those were completed by people who either were interviewed in the Project Area or reported visiting Enloe Dam. However, only two of the parties surveyed actually camped within the Project Area.

### **Origin of Recreational Users**

Almost all of the 2006 survey respondents appear to be Washington residents. More than 95 percent of those who responded to Question 17 (“What is the ZIP code of your home address?”) listed Washington ZIP codes. Only eight individuals (4.8 percent)

<sup>1</sup> Days coinciding with holidays or recreational events, including Fourth of July (4 days), Northwest Miner’s Rally (3 days), Labor Day/Blues Festival (3 days), and first weekend of deer hunting season (2 days).

reported ZIP codes from outside the state. Seven of those (4.2 percent) were from Canada; the other was from Colorado. Sixty-four individuals (38.1 percent) reported Okanogan County ZIP codes.

### **Popular Activities in the Project Area**

Visitors to the Study Area were asked to report all of their recreational activities during their visits to the Study Area, and also to indicate which activity was most important to them. Mining is the most popular activity, reported as the primary activity by 22 survey respondents representing 30.5 percent of the total individuals. Fifteen listed mining as a secondary activity. Overall, 37 surveys - 62.7 percent of the total - listed mining as a primary or additional activity.

Boating, shore fishing, and sightseeing were the next most popular activities. Boating was reported as the primary activity in seven surveys. Five surveys listed sightseeing as the respondent's primary activity, and four reported it as an additional (secondary) activity. Shore fishing was the primary activity for five respondents, and appeared as an additional activity for two more.

Users surveyed within the Project Area reported a somewhat different mix of use. Shore fishing was the most popular activity (the primary activity of six respondents). Sightseeing and mining tied for second (the primary activity for four respondents each). Boating and floating on inner tubes was the next most popular primary activity. It is worth noting that, although mining remains among the top three activities, it is reported as a primary activity by far fewer respondents within the Project Area than by those outside the Project Area—just four as opposed to 22.

When results are aggregated, nine surveys conducted within the Project Area (31.0 percent) list shore fishing as a primary or additional activity. Seven surveys (24.1 percent) report mining, and six (20.7 percent) report sightseeing. Again, mining remains important in the Project Area, but is far less so than in the larger Study Area.

### **Boating and Floating**

Rafting, kayaking, and inner-tubing have been observed both above and below Enloe Dam in the Project Area. Canoes are also used above the dam.

During high water periods the river attracts a limited number of whitewater enthusiasts who run the river above Shanker's Bend and below the dam. As water levels drop and the temperature warms, the river sees more relaxed water-based recreation. Swimming near Shanker's Bend and floating the canyon below the dam are popular activities in these periods.

Boaters and floaters use a number of informal, user-developed access points in the Project Area. Some users walk down the old access road on the east bank of the river to launch rafts, kayaks, and inner tubes just below the dam.

One commercial outfitter offers guided float trips on the Similkameen River above and below Enloe Dam.

### Camping

Two areas within the Project Area show evidence of use as primitive campsites. One is located just upstream of Enloe Dam, on a small peninsula that supports a riparian woodland. The second site is about a mile farther upstream, on a floodplain terrace accessible by four-wheel drive vehicles. Only two parties were observed camping in the Project Area during the recreational survey period.

### Fishing

In the past, fishing for steelhead and Chinook salmon has been popular downstream of Similkameen Falls, and some trout and bass fishing has also taken place there. At this time, fishing regulations allow fishing for whitefish only on the Similkameen River below Enloe dam (WDFW 2008b). Fishing for other game fish is not allowed. (Exceptions may apply for federally-recognized tribes exercising federally-secured rights.) (WDFW 2008a). Anglers find whitefish in the reservoir above the dam (Jateff 2007). They may also catch bass, sunfish, and pike minnows. However, sampling conducted as part of the licensing study process did not find many large bass in the reservoir (see Exhibit E.3.2). The District's 1991 FERC License Application reports "Fishing occurs mainly in the lower reaches of the Similkameen River near Oroville; however, many anglers walk down the old access road on the east bank of the river to fish just below the dam. As many as 30 people have been seen at one time fishing below the falls" (PUD 1991).

Sport angler steelhead harvest on the Similkameen River from May 1, 2000 to April 30, 2002 (the most recent periods available) is shown in Table E.7-3.

**Table E.7-3**  
**Similkameen River Sport Angler Steelhead Harvest**

Year	Monthly Fish Catch												Total Catch
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
2000-2001 <sup>2</sup>												6	6
2001-2002 <sup>3</sup>				5			52	5	42	55	277		436

<sup>2</sup> Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. *2000-2001 Steelhead Harvest Summary*. January 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. *2001-2002 Steelhead Harvest Summary*. February 2004.

## **Gold Prospecting**

Prospecting for gold is a popular use in the vicinity of the project, and one of the activities most frequently reported by survey respondents within the Project Area. The WDFW regulates small scale mining and mineral prospecting to protect fish and fish habitat, including establishing seasons for different types of equipment. (WDFW's provisions are in addition to federal, state, or local regulations.)

Most recreational miners utilize small floating suction dredges with built-in sluice boxes. Within the Project Area, dredging occurs below Enloe Dam, and the dredges must be carried to the river in pieces and assembled for use. Some recreational miners use small water craft (motorized and non-motorized) to access dredge sites on the far bank, in the middle of the channel or below the dam.

## **Hunting**

Mule deer and upland game birds are the species most commonly sought by hunters in the Project Vicinity.

## **Sightseeing**

The Enloe Project Area attracts sightseers ranging from area residents to tourists who discover the area while exploring northern Okanogan County, or guests of area residents familiar with the Similkameen.

Areas of interest include an overlook off the county road above the Dam; the areas along both access roads between the Loomis-Oroville Road and dam; the dam and immediate surroundings; and both sides of the river corridor up and downstream from the dam.

## **Swimming**

Swimming in the reservoir near Shanker's Bend is popular with local residents.

## **Potential Recreational Use**

User surveys provide little indication that recreational use in the Project Area would change with Project implementation – or that changes would be desired. Indeed, a number of survey respondents noted that they would like to see the area remain as it is.

If the Project is operated as proposed, flows spilling over the dam and falls would be reduced from approximately July through March each year. These reduced spills would affect recreational users largely between July and mid-October, which is the portion of the peak recreational season during which Project operations would affect spillover. The extent of these effects would depend on flow levels, increasing in dry years and decreasing in wet years.

Reduced flows in the bypass reach would primarily affect the aesthetic quality of the recreational experience for visitors to the dam and the area below the dam. Fishing might be affected in the reach immediately below the dam; however this reach is not used by anglers due to its poor quality habitat and the resultant low populations of attractive sport fish species present. Boating would not be affected for most users. Rocks and other geologic features would be exposed in the bypass reach, affecting recreational users who enjoy the aesthetics of high flow volumes over the falls; however, during the peak recreational season, flows are normally low to very low. Views of exposed rocks occur naturally each year during low flow seasons.

Crest gates would result in changes from lotic to lentic habitat upstream of the impoundment during some months. The change from lotic to lentic habitat would be limited to a small portion of the Similkameen River directly upstream of the impoundment. The change is not expected to result in a reduction in fish abundance or in the species found. The small change in habitat would not reduce the amount of spawning habitat available to riverine species with the possible exception of whitefish. The boulder clusters proposed as PM&E FISH 02 and described in Exhibit E.3.2.3 would be expected to compensate for the reduction in whitefish habitat. Rainbow trout, whitefish, bass and sunfish occupy both lotic and lentic habitat and would be expected to occur in the area whether it is lentic or lotic habitat. In fact, larger fish would likely be available in the lentic habitat as the water would be deeper and require less energy for fish to maintain their feeding stations. The interface between the two habitat types should continue to be a productive area for angler use since the interface usually has increased prey availability for fish.

With the implementation of the proposed PM&Es (including PM&Es related to fish resources, discussed in Exhibit E.3.2.3), the Project is expected to have a beneficial effect on the abundance of anadromous fish throughout the life of the Project. The proposed side channel enhancement in the Similkameen would increase the habitat

available for spawning and rearing of anadromous fish. No anadromous fish habitat would be lost as a consequence of the Project. Some individuals may be affected by construction activities associated with the powerhouse and tailrace facilities. Therefore, the Project is not expected to have any adverse effect on anadromous fish resources.

A majority of those visitor intercept survey respondents who reported levels of satisfaction said they were “very satisfied” with their recreational experiences in the Study Area. Fewer than 30 percent of the respondents who answered the question about the need for facilities at the Enloe Dam site placed a high priority on improvements. The improvements most desired were toilets, picnic facilities, improved river access, and garbage collection.

Recreational use estimates published by the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation in 2003 suggest that, over the next 15 years, there would be increased participation in the following activities that are pursued in the Project Area:

- Walking
- Nature activities
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Picnicking
- Non-pool swimming
- Sightseeing
- Camping (primitive dispersed)

Participation in the following activities is expected to decrease:

- Hunting—shooting
- Fishing

(Olympia Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation 2004).

The proposed access improvements in the Project Area would offer improved opportunities for walking, nature activities, canoeing/kayaking, and sightseeing. The proposed recreation site would offer improved opportunities for picnicking and camping.

The proposed access improvements would also improve opportunities for hunting and fishing.

The proposed Oroville-Nighthawk Trail and Greater Columbia Water Trail may result in increased levels of use as they are developed and become popular. There is no indication that they would cause immediate increases in level of use, nor is there a basis for estimating the levels of use they would generate. Monitoring would be required

to determine their impact on recreational resources in the Project Area and Project Vicinity.

Because recreational use in the Project Area has a strong local component, use is projected to grow at the same rate as the area population, estimated at about 3 percent per year. Table E-7.4 estimates future recreation days in the Project Area.

**Table E-7.4  
Estimated Future Recreation Days—Project Area**

<b>Estimated Recreation Days</b>									
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1,378	1,419	1,462	1,506	1,551	1,597	1,645	1,695	1,746	1,798

As detailed in Appendix E.7.1, overnight visits to the Project Area are estimated to number about 56 per year. As with general use, overnight use of the Project Area is expected to grow at the same rate as the population of the area (Table E.7-5).

**Table E.7-5  
Estimated Future Overnight Visits—Project Area**

<b>Estimated Overnight Visits</b>									
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
56	58	59	61	63	65	67	69	71	73

### **E.7.3 PROTECTION, MITIGATION & ENHANCEMENT MEASURES**

A summary of Project PM&Es is provided in Appendix D.1.

#### **AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS**

This section contains a description of the measures and facilities recommended by the BLM (the only agency provided such recommendations) for the purpose of creating, preserving, or enhancing recreational opportunities associated with the proposed Project, and for the purpose of ensuring the safety of the public in its use of project lands and waters; and a proposed Recreation Plan. The Plan accepts most recommended measures, or slightly modified measures. Table E.7-6 compares these recommendations with the District's proposed PM&Es.

The BLM owns the land within the FERC boundary and most of the land abutting it, and was the only agency to offer recommendations regarding recreation and public safety measures and facilities. The list below summarizes the BLM's recommendations related to recreational opportunities at the proposed project and ensuring the safety of the public in its use of project lands and waters. The full text of the BLM's recommendations

is included as Appendix E.7.2. No plans by or agreements with other entities exist to provide recreational facilities or measures in the Project Area.

- Develop recreation enhancement plan, to include provisions for upgrading north bank access road, installing directional signing, providing a parking area, picnic tables, and vault toilet, and installing a railing
- Develop non-motorized public access trail plan, to include provisions for interpretive display, parking at north end of trestle, signage for same, spur trails to river, management, maintenance, funding, and location of trail
- Work with BLM, County, and others to develop trail
- Improve trestle
- Park-like area near top of dam, w/picnic tables, vault toilets, parking area, signage, gravel roads
- Implement safety measures above dam: signs, floats
- Implement safety measures at dam: railing or wall at and below dam
- Fence & lock powerhouse; video surveillance
- Develop wayside with interpretive signs at dam or powerhouse
- Build footbridge above and across dam
- Improve ditch access road: 2-lane graveled or turnouts; remove unsafe ditch structures; parking turnouts
- Obliterate and rehabilitate old dam access road
- Analyze impacts of flashboards on fishing, camping, and beach use
- Develop powerhouse interpretive plan
- Improve two dispersed camping sites with toilets, picnic tables, signs, and improved roads
- Develop recreation map

## **PROPOSED RECREATION PLAN**

The recreation PM&E measures identified below for implementation at the Enloe Hydroelectric Project address:

- Road access to Enloe Dam and immediate vicinity
- Physical and visual access to Enloe Dam and the impoundment above the dam (east bank)
- Access to the river corridor below Enloe Dam (east bank)
- Access to the river corridor from the west bank
- Displacement of some uses due to inundation
- Illegal trash dumping
- Potential changes in type and intensity of recreational use

The District's proposal for addressing those issues, including proposed measures and facilities, is described in the paragraphs that follow. Detailed plans would be developed following the FERC's licensing decision. The design program would include efficient site layout (including routes for boaters putting in, taking out, and portaging the dam), cost effectiveness, and considerations related to environmental impacts.

## **ISSUE: ROAD ACCESS TO ENLOE DAM AND IMMEDIATE VICINITY**

### **Potential Impact**

As described in Exhibit A, the District plans to close the low-lying leg (Segment B) of the OTID Ditch Road that leads from the Loomis-Oroville Road (County Road #9425) to Enloe Dam.

### **Proposed PM&E BOTA-03: Abandon Existing Shoreline Road and Restore Existing Road**

The District plans to maintain public access to the area by rehabilitating the upper leg of the OTID Ditch Road (Segment C) to replace the low-lying Segment B, as described in detail in Exhibit A and shown in Figure E.7-2. Public vehicle access would terminate at a new parking area, in the general vicinity of the area now accessible to vehicles (see Figure E.7-2). Vehicle access beyond the proposed new parking area would be limited to authorized vehicles, for security reasons. The access road would be constructed with turnouts to allow vehicles traveling in opposite directions to pass. Segment B of the existing access road that is to be closed would be blocked at both ends with rocks to restrict access, as would any existing unimproved spur roads. Proposed road access improvements would increase safety, avoid seasonally inundated areas, and increase the accessibility of the recreational site for smaller vehicles. The road would be open spring through fall for dam access and recreational use. Winter access would not

normally be maintained, although the District may open the road as needed to access the facilities for maintenance and operations purposes.

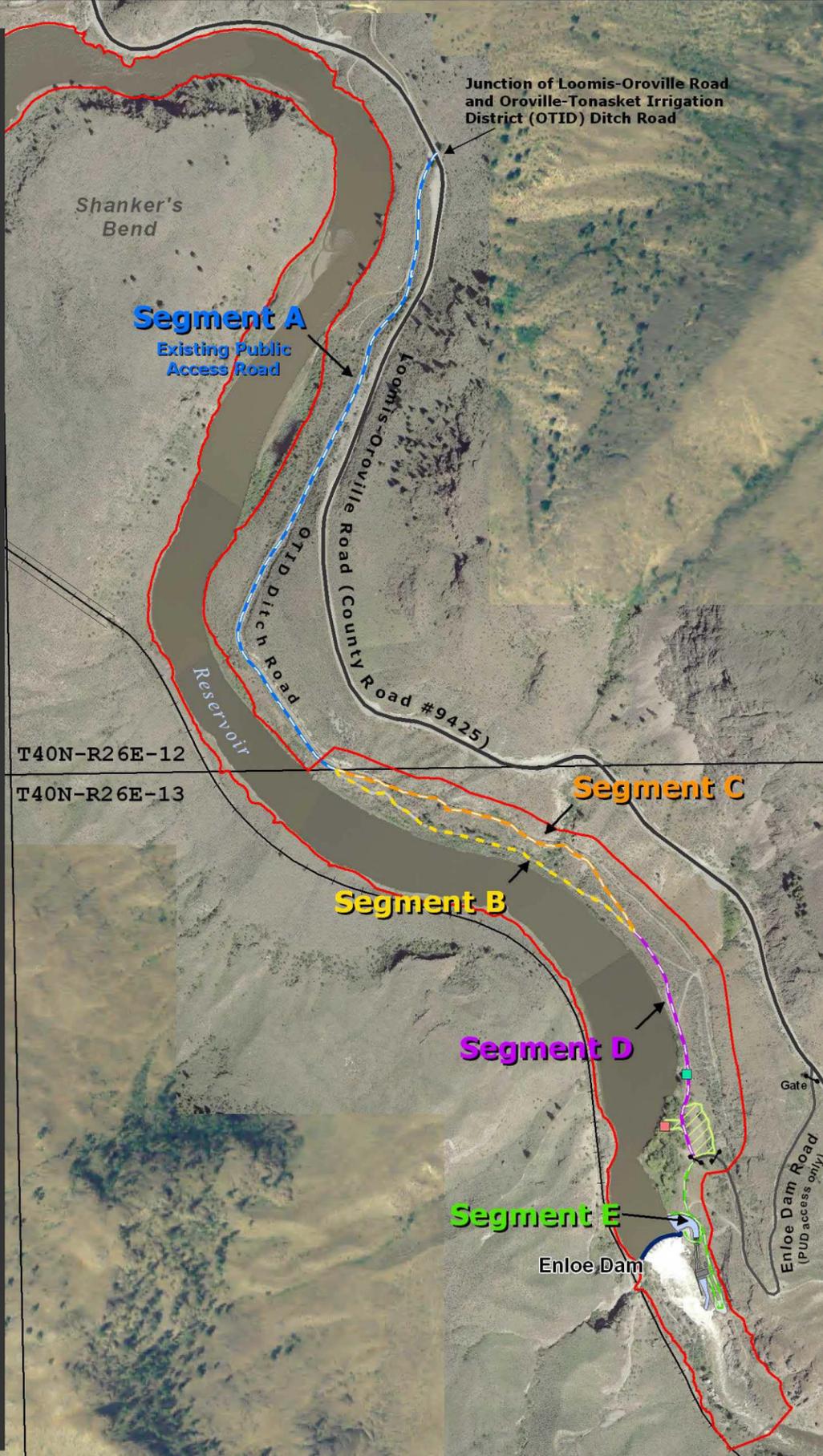
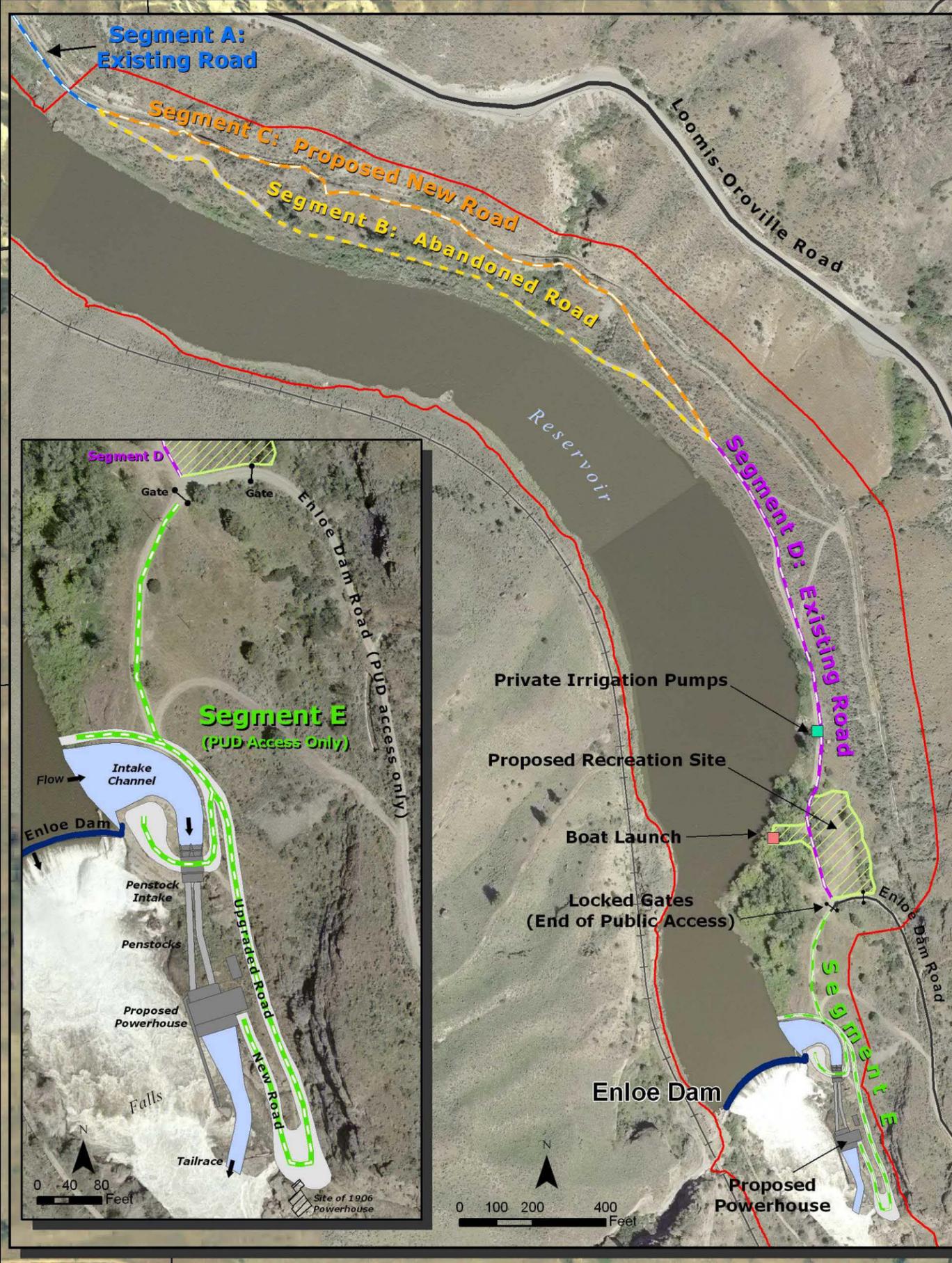
The District also proposes to work in cooperation with Okanogan County to formulate an agreement regarding the long-term use (including access and maintenance) of Enloe Dam Road.

Costs associated with BOTA-03 are discussed under the botany PM&Es.

### **Expected Outcome**

The expected outcome of the implementation of this PM&E would be improved and safer access to the east side of the dam. In addition, abandonment of Segment B of the OTID Ditch Road would benefit the botanical and wildlife resources by providing additional habitat and removing disturbances from the adjacent habitats.

[ Figure E.7-2 ]



- Legend**
- Boat Launch
  - Private Irrigation Pumps
  - Enloe Dam
  - FERC Boundary
  - Section Boundary
  - Proposed Recreation Site
  - Loomis-Oroville Road
  - Abandoned Railroad
  - Railroad Tunnel
  - Existing Enloe Dam Road (PUD Access Only)
  - Access Road Segment A: Existing Public Access Road.
  - Access Road Segment B: Existing Road to be Abandoned.
  - Access Road Segment C: Proposed New Road with Pullouts. Pullout locations to be determined.
  - Access Road Segment D: Existing Public Access Road.
  - Access Road Segment E: PUD Access Only.



Image sources: USDA National Agriculture Imagery Program, 2005 and PUD No. 1 of Okanogan County, 2006.

Enloe Dam Licensing Project

**Figure E.7-2  
Access Road**



## **ISSUE: LIMITED PUBLIC ACCESS AT ENLOE DAM AND LOWER IMPOUNDMENT**

### **Potential Impact**

The District proposes to improve public safety by limiting vehicle access to the shoreline area immediately adjacent to Enloe Dam and to the lower reaches of its impoundment. This would also protect wetlands in the area from damage associated with vehicles and foot traffic.

### **Proposed PM&E REC-01: Install Barricades and Fencing to Prevent Unauthorized Access**

The District would install fencing and barricades, as shown in Exhibit F and described below:

- A barricade would be installed to prevent access by unauthorized vehicles beyond the proposed new parking area (described below under the heading “Potential changes in type and intensity of recreational use”). A locked gate would allow authorized vehicles access to the power generating facilities and the area below Enloe Dam. The barriers would make provisions for access by persons portaging rafts, canoes, kayaks and mining equipment.
- A fence would be installed to prevent vehicle and livestock access to the riparian woodland above the dam and adjacent to the impoundment, to protect wetlands. Currently, the area is used occasionally as a primitive campsite. Dense vegetation and stands of poison ivy render most of the area inaccessible. River access improvements, described under the heading “Potential changes in type and intensity of recreational use”, would provide adaptive mitigation for the change in camping access.

Currently, a low chain-link fence serves as a safety barrier, separating visitors on shore from Enloe Dam and the lower reaches of the impoundment, directly upstream from the dam. No other human-caused barriers prevent access to the dam, the impoundment, or the adjacent open area. The open area is accessible to vehicles and is used for parking. The existing fence would be removed to accommodate construction of the proposed power generation facilities. A new security fence would extend as far north as the riparian woodland mentioned above, and would connect with the new fence around that woodland, creating a continuous safety barrier adjacent to the dam and the lower reaches of the impoundment.

The costs associated with the barricade, locked gate and the new security fence surrounding the dam and the lower reaches of the impoundment are estimated at \$40,000.

**Expected Outcome**

The fence and barricades will improve public safety by limiting access to dangerous Project features.

**ISSUE: ACCESS TO THE RIVER CORRIDOR BELOW ENLOE DAM (EAST BANK)****Potential Impact**

The construction of the new power generation facilities would require replacement of portions of an abandoned road and foot trails which currently provide foot access to areas below Enloe Dam, including Similkameen Falls and the lower reaches of the Similkameen River, with a new access road. The segment of the road closest to the dam would be upgraded during construction of the proposed new power generation facilities.

**Proposed PM&E REC-02: Provide Recreation Access below Enloe Dam**

Options for providing access to the river corridor below Enloe Dam (including portage options) are limited by site factors (including steep, rocky terrain and a confined channel), the generation facility design program, and FERC security requirements. A new road will be built (using the existing road bed where feasible) to provide access to the generation facilities (Segment E on Figure E.7-2). The District proposes to provide public access to the river below Enloe Dam by allowing foot access along the new road to connect with the old access road and existing trails. The new road will be gated at both ends to allow vehicle access only to authorized vehicles. However, visitors (including boaters hand-carrying kayaks, canoes, and inflated rafts) would be able to walk down Segment E, past the power generation site; therefore, the road, even though gated, is expected to improve access to the water for these boaters. Foot access to areas below the new generation facilities would continue on the existing (abandoned) road and foot trails (see Exhibit G, Map 1). Currently there is no access to the area for people with physical disabilities, and no measures specifically intended to meet the needs of people with physical disabilities are proposed for access to areas below the dam. Due to natural topography and design constraints, the road to the new generating facility will be very steep, making it unsuitable for wheelchairs or other conveyance for people with physical disabilities.

Vehicle access to the area below the dam via the new gravelled road would be allowed for authorized users only. Foot access to areas below the new generation facilities would continue on the existing (abandoned) road.

This PM&E is subject to federal requirements related to security of the generating facilities.

The cost of constructing a new road is included in Exhibit E.3 Proposed PM&E BOTA-03. There are no other costs associated with REC-02.

### **Expected Outcome**

Foot access to the area below the dam will be improved for recreational boaters, anglers, hikers and others participating in nonconsumptive environmental recreation activities such as birdwatching or photography.

### **ISSUE: ACCESS TO THE RIVER CORRIDOR FROM THE WEST BANK**

### **Potential Impact**

Visitor access to Enloe Dam and the immediate vicinity is primarily from the east. Access from the west is limited by steep rugged terrain and the absence of a public road. The west bank of the Similkameen River is extremely steep and rocky. Game trails provide some access to the old powerhouse and associated facilities and to the river below the dam. An abandoned railroad bed at the top of the bank provides vehicle access to the area; however, it is not open to the public. The railroad bed traverses private land, and access is controlled by locked gates at both ends. Parts of the railroad bed lie within the Project Area. As noted above, Okanogan County plans to develop a public, non-motorized recreational use trail on the grade. Access to the south end of the trail will be via a trestle bridge currently owned by the District.

### **Proposed PM&E REC-03: Transfer Ownership of Trestle Bridge**

In the past, the District has collaborated with the County in development of the County's proposed non-motorized public access trail on the railroad bed on the west side of the Similkameen River. Toward that end, the District has provided easements through District property to the County with the following conditions:

- The first phase of the trail will terminate prior to reaching the downstream end of the Project Area—that is, the first phase of the trail will not run adjacent to the Project Area.
- The District retains the right to use the bridge and the railroad bed to reach the dam site for maintenance and operations.

Under these conditions, the District will transfer ownership of the trestle bridge to the County for development into a public, nonmotorized, recreational use trail. Transaction costs for the transfer are approximately \$10,000. The value of the donation is estimated to be \$1,000,000.

The District also plans to coordinate with the Department of Public Works regarding road approaches and signage.

### **Expected Outcome**

The transfer of ownership of the railroad trestle is expected to facilitate the County's plans to improve access for recreational purposes.

## **ISSUE: DISPLACEMENT OF USES DUE TO INCREASE IN INUNDATED AREA AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS**

### **Potential Impact**

The proposed Project includes crest gates, which will raise the water level in the impoundment above Enloe Dam at certain times of year. The increased water level will inundate parts of an area of riparian woodland that includes an informal, user-developed hand-launch/take-out ramp and is occasionally used as a primitive campsite.

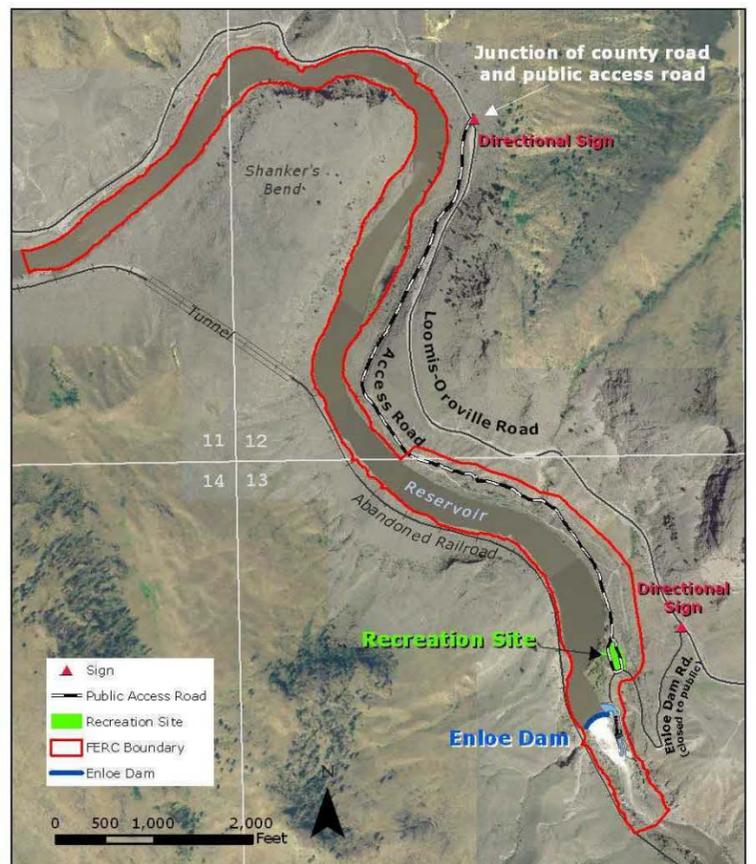
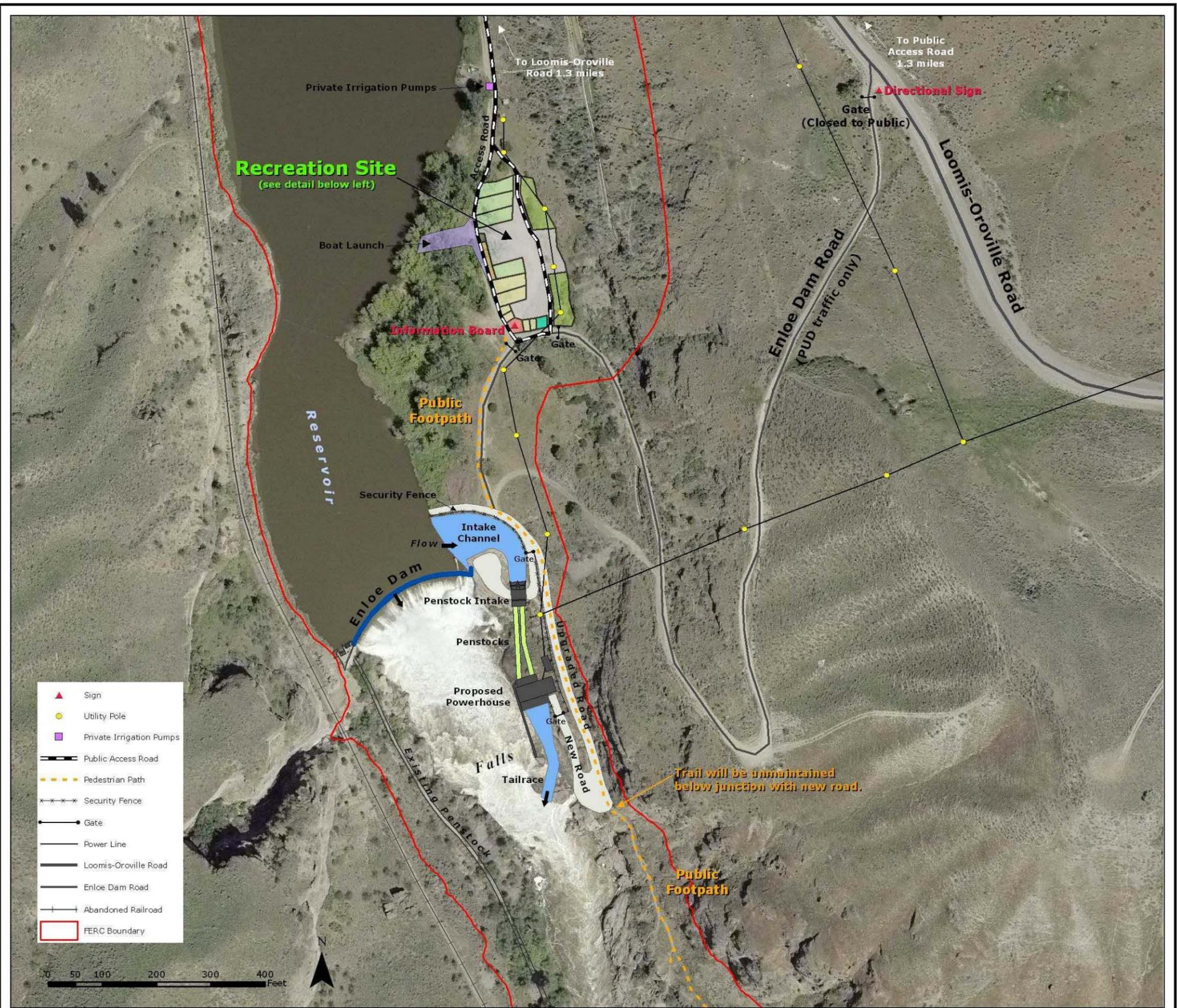
### **Proposed PM&E REC-04: Improve Existing Informal Boat Ramp**

To mitigate for the loss of these recreational sites, the District proposes to replace the existing informal hand-launch/take-out ramp with an improved ramp. These improvements will facilitate access to the river trail. Detailed plans will be developed following the FERC's licensing decision. Changes in pool level would be accounted for in designing the ramp. The new ramp would be accessible to vehicles for loading; the proposed new parking area (described below under the heading "Potential changes in type and intensity of recreational use") would be located a few yards away.

To protect wetlands and riparian resources, fencing would be installed as described in Appendix E.3.7 to prevent vehicles and livestock from entering the riparian woodland (site of the existing informal ramp). The cost of replacing the boat ramp is estimated to be \$40,000. Costs associated with the fencing are described under REC-01.

Access to a riparian area on the east bank of the Similkameen River, just downstream from Shanker's Bend, would also be restricted (see Figure E.7-3). The area is used as a boaters' take-out. Parts of the area would be permanently inundated due to the use of crest gates on the dam. In addition, the area will be fenced to prevent damage to wetlands by livestock. The District proposes to erect a sign facing the water advising boaters to use an alternative take-out.

[ Figure E.7-3 ]



Enloe Dam Licensing Project

**Figure E.7-3  
Recreation Site Plan**

Image sources: USDA National Agriculture Imagery Program, 2005 and PUD No. 1 of Okanogan County, 2006.

**ENTRIX**

**Proposed PM&E REC-05: Clean Up and Restore Wooded Area on East Bank**

Cleaning up and restoring the wooded area on the east bank of the reservoir would enhance visitor experience. Clean up would include removing trash, auto bodies, and other debris from the area. Restoration would include planting native vegetation appropriate to the site in areas that have been degraded by vehicle use and camping. The proposed changes are not expected to affect views of the area from Enloe Dam or to encourage visitors to enter the area. The area is expected to be more visually appealing after trash and debris have been removed. Initially, visual impact related to planting would be minimal; the appearance of the area would change as the plants mature. Currently, dense vegetation, including thick stands of poison ivy, covers much of the area, and the District does not plan changes that would make those heavily vegetated areas more accessible. A detailed clean up and restoration plan will be developed after the licensing decision. Expected costs for this would be \$10,000.

**Proposed PM&E REC-06: Develop an Interpretive Publication**

In collaboration with Okanogan County, the Greater Columbia Water Trail Steering Committee, and other interested parties, the District will develop an interpretive publication, including a map of the Enloe Dam area that illustrates recreation sites and access. Topics to be addressed will be determined after the FERC's licensing decision. Costs for this are anticipated to be \$5,000.

**Expected Outcome**

Implementation of REC-04, REC-05, and REC-06 would enhance the recreational experience in the Project Area by improving the aesthetic quality of the experience, making it easier to find recreational resources, and making it easier for recreators to park, load and unload recreational equipment and enjoy the interpretive signs that add to the experience. Improvements such as the boat launch and parking area will enhance efforts to improve the GCRWT.

**ISSUE: ILLEGAL TRASH DUMPING****Potential Impact**

Illegal trash dumping has been a problem in the Project Area.

**Proposed PM&E REC-07: Remove Existing Trash and Conduct Annual Cleanup**

The District proposes to remove existing trash from the following areas:

- The wooded area on the east bank of the reservoir, just above Enloe Dam
- The OTID Ditch Road access leading from the Loomis-Oroville Road to the dam site

The District also proposes annual clean up to remove dumped materials. The initial effort is expected to cost approximately \$5,000. Ongoing trash removal will likely cost an average between \$500 and \$1,000 annually.

### **Expected Outcome**

The implementation of this PM&E will improve the aesthetic value of the recreational experience. In addition, it will improve public safety and remove potential public health issues.

## **ISSUE: POTENTIAL CHANGES IN TYPE AND INTENSITY OF RECREATIONAL USE**

### **Potential Impact**

The proposed project and attendant changes in accessibility of the site are likely to result in an increase in intensity of recreational use, but there is little indication that the type of recreational use would change. The amount of increase is difficult to predict, because recreational use of the Project Area and Vicinity had not been quantified prior to development of the District's license application. The 2006 Recreational Use Survey found that more than 95 percent of visitors to the Study Area were Washington residents, and more than one-third live in Okanogan County. Therefore, the increase in recreational use of the Project Area would probably be similar to the rate of population growth locally and in the State. The number of recreational users may increase as a result of development of the proposed non-motorized recreational use trail on the west bank of the Similkameen River, described under the heading "Access to the river corridor from the west bank" above.

### **Proposed PM&E REC-08: Develop Parking Area**

This PM&E proposes to develop a parking area with a universally-accessible vault toilet near Enloe Dam. Both the developed parking area and the accessible toilet would meet the needs of people with disabilities. Those measures would provide accessible recreational resources for a new user group as there are currently no facilities available for people with disabilities. The cost of these facilities is estimated at \$40,000.

### **Proposed PM&E REC-09: Install Picnic Tables**

REC-09 would install picnic tables near the parking area. Shading will be provided by existing trees. The cost of these improvements is estimated at \$15,000.

**Proposed PM&E REC-10: Develop Primitive Campsites**

REC-10 proposes to develop primitive campsites near the parking and picnic area described above. The campsites will also help to mitigate for closure of the riparian woodland to camping, described under the heading “Displacement of Uses Due to Increase in Inundated Area and Access Restrictions” above. The cost of the improvements is estimated at \$2,500.

**Proposed PM&E REC-11: Interpretive Signs**

Under REC-11 the District would place interpretive signs in the area near Enloe Dam that is accessible to visitors. Signs would include, at a minimum, one sign near the parking and picnic area and a second sign at or near the abutment of the old powerhouse access bridge, below Similkameen Falls at an estimated cost of \$5,000. Contents of the signs will be determined following the licensing decision.

**Proposed PM&E REC-12: Information Board**

Place an information board in the area near Enloe Dam that is accessible to visitors. At a minimum, the information board will display a map showing river access points in the Project Area and information about visitor use of the Project Area. The District will consult with the BLM regarding design, placement, and any necessary environmental clearances related to the information board. The cost of erecting the information board is estimated to be \$2,500.

**Proposed PM&E REC-13: Recreation Management Plan**

Following the FERC’s licensing decision, prepare and implement a Recreation Management Plan, to address proposed facilities, layout, design, access, implementation, use, consultation, wetlands mitigation, monitoring, maintenance and management (including enforcement). Plan development will include an opportunity for stakeholder participation and to monitor recreational use of the Project Area to assess changes in type and intensity. The Plan will include and employ management strategies in response to changes in recreational use, based on monitoring findings. The process will include periodic consultation with the BLM. The cost of the plan is estimated to be \$40,000. The cost of implementation of the plan has not been estimated.

**Expected Outcome**

Implementation of REC-08 through REC-13 will result in a substantial improvement in the recreational resources available in the vicinity of the Project. Implementation of the Recreation Management Plan will provide an assessment of changes in recreational use to determine how well the new facilities are meeting demand.

## EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PROPOSED RECREATION PLAN AND BLM RECOMMENDATIONS

Table E.7-6 compares the District's proposal with the BLM's recommendations, and explains why the District has rejected some of the measures and facilities recommended by the BLM.

**Table E.7-6  
Comparison of Proposed Recreation Plan and BLM Recommendations**

<b>Request</b>	<b>District Proposal</b>
<i>BLM requests</i>	
Prepare a recreation enhancement plan	The District proposes to prepare and implement a Recreational Management Plan, including consultation, monitoring, maintenance and management elements (REC-13)
Improve access to the dam, using the old irrigation ditch road. The road should be a two-lane graveled surface or be designed with turnouts. Irrigation ditch structures (including siphons) that may be unsafe should be removed or fenced. Illegal dumping should be controlled. Access roads to the river should be re-designed to include parking turnouts. This would provide access to the river but would limit damage to riparian areas from trespass and clean up trash.	The District proposes to replace the low-lying Segment B of the west (upstream) access road, as described above under the heading "Road access to Enloe Dam and immediate vicinity." (BOTA-03)  Within the Project APE, the District will clean up trash. (REC-07)
Obliterate and rehabilitate the old dam access road (assume this means the south access road)	The road has been identified as a County road, and the BLM has rescinded its request.
Construct a railing or wall along the river edge at the dam as well as below the dam to guard recreation users from falling.	The District proposes to limit public access to shoreline area adjacent to Enloe Dam and to the lower reaches of its impoundment, using a security fence. (See Exhibit F.)
Construct a wayside with interpretive signs at the Enloe Dam site and/or Powerhouse.	The District proposes to install interpretive signs near Enloe Dam (REC-11 and REC-12)
Install signs and floats on the water alerting recreation users to take outs and to potential dangers of the facility	District proposes to continue to upgrade and maintain the existing signs and safety barrier. As is currently the case, all safety signs will be in English and Spanish. (REC-01, REC-11 and REC-12)
Improve and/or develop a park-like area near the top of the Dam (north side) that includes picnic tables, a vault toilet, a parking area, signage and gravel roads.	The District proposes to develop a parking area with a universally-accessible vault toilet, picnic tables, and interpretive signs near Enloe Dam. (REC-08 and REC-09)
Construct a walking bridge above and across the dam to the park-like area (requested above) at the Dam. The bridge would provide access to a trailhead/parking and camping area for the Pacific Northwest Trail.	The District does not anticipate responding to the request; it does not appear to be commensurate with anticipated impacts of the Project and could compromise the security of the Project facilities.

Request	District Proposal
<i>BLM requests</i>	
Make improvements at Miners' Flat and Similkameen Camp, including permanent toilets, picnic tables, signs and improved roads	The improvements requested by the BLM do not appear to be commensurate with anticipated impacts of the Project
Prepare a plan for a non-motorized public access trail along the old railroad grade from Oroville to Nighthawk; work with the BLM, Okanogan County, and interested public and private stakeholders to develop the trail; and improve the existing rail trestle as necessary to ensure safe and easy access to non-motorized use	See proposed response to Okanogan County's request, below
Develop a map of the Enloe Dam Project Area that illustrates recreation sites and access	The District proposes to develop such a map, as requested. (REC06)
Annual consultation to review progress in implementing the protection, mitigation and enhancement measures included as articles of the Enloe Dam project license and to resolve issues as the District and BLM determine is necessary	The District proposes to prepare and implement a Recreational Management Plan, including provisions for periodic consultation with the BLM. (REC-13)
<i>Okanogan County request</i>	
The County Planning Commission acted on March 26, 2007 to support the comments submitted by the BLM specifically related to the development of a trail on the old railroad grade.	The District has provided the County an easement across its trestle bridge. The trail would extend to the downstream end of the Project Area. The District retains the right to use the bridge and the railroad bed to reach the dam site for maintenance and operations. The District has collaborated with Okanogan County in developing the trail adjacent to the Project Area. (REC-03)

## E.7.4 RECREATION CONSULTATION SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

Consultation requirements related to recreation measures and facilities are addressed in Title 18 CFR, Part 4.41(f)(7). That paragraph describes the requirements for a report on recreational resources, which "must be prepared in consultation with appropriate local, regional, state and Federal recreation agencies and planning commissions, the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and any other state or Federal agency with managerial responsibility for any part of the project lands."

Following the initial outreach and follow-on technical meetings described above, early consultation was continued via informal communications with key stakeholders.

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The United States owns and the Bureau BLM manages the proposed project lands landward of the pre-inundation ordinary high water mark. Negotiating for the provision of public access and recreation facilities and measures and providing for visitor safety were key issues of concern for the BLM.

The District received Initial Consultation Document (ICD) comments related to recreation from the BLM. Since receipt of those comments, informal communications with BLM staff have been ongoing. In addition to communicating informally, District staff and members of the consulting team held consultation meetings with BLM staff at the BLM's Wenatchee Resource Area Office on February 15, 2007 and January 16, 2008. The purpose of the first session was to provide BLM staff with updated information about the proposed facility design and the outcomes of technical studies; and to discuss matters of particular interest to the BLM, identify issues of interest to the agency, and solicit BLM staff's views about project proposals. The second session, in 2008, was for the purpose of addressing any concerns with the DLA that might otherwise have been submitted as written comments. The BLM's written comments, along with input from informal communications and the February 15<sup>th</sup> consultation session, were considered in developing recreation PM&Es and the recreation plan in this report.

BLM staff also participated in the Meeting to Resolve Disagreements held in Okanogan on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008

### **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

The District did not receive ICD comments from the National Park Service (NPS). In informal communication, NPS staff expressed interest in consulting on the proposed Project, however no issues have been identified. The District held two informational meetings early in 2007 to which NPS staff was invited; however no NPS representatives attended.

The NPS participated in public information meetings, January 9 and 10, 2008 and the Meeting to Resolve Disagreements held in Okanogan on April 25, 2008.

### **WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

The State of Washington owns the bedlands and pre-inundation shorelands of the Similkameen River, and the WDNR manages those lands. The District did not receive ICD comments from the WDNR. WDNR staff attended one of two informational meetings hosted by the District early in 2007 for the purpose of updating and consulting with stakeholders about the proposed hydroelectric project.

DNR participated in public information meetings January 9 and 10, 2008 and the Meeting to Resolve Disagreements held in Okanogan on April 25, 2008.

## **WASHINGTON STATE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION**

The Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) is Washington's state recreation agency. The IAC prepares Washington's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which includes recommendations for private utilities operating non-federal hydropower projects under license from FERC. The District licensing team has communicated informally with IAC staff. The key issue raised by the IAC is the District's responsibility to provide public recreational access to lands and waters at the project, on an equal opportunity basis. IAC staff were invited to the two informational meetings held by the District early in 2007, but did not attend.

## **OKANOGAN COUNTY OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Okanogan County Office of Planning and Development is responsible for recreation planning, including development of a proposed non-motorized multi-use trail adjacent to the Project Area. During the ICD comment period, the District received a letter from the County authorizing a partnership for the purpose of planning and developing the proposed trail.

Informal communications with County staff have been ongoing, and District staff and members of the consulting team have briefed the Board of Okanogan County Commissioners and the County Planning Commission about the proposed Enloe Hydroelectric Project. County staff attended informational meetings hosted by the District early in 2007 and 2008 for the purpose of updating and consulting with stakeholders about the proposed hydroelectric project. The proposed trail project was also on the Agenda at the District's Board of Commissioners meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007, during which County staff provided an update on the County's plans and desire to move ahead with the project to the District Board. In addition, members of the consulting team held a consultation meeting with County staff on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 the District signed a right-of-way deed with the County, providing right-of-way over the trestle and other parcels. District staff and members of the consulting team continue to communicate with County staff regarding roles and responsibilities related to the proposed trail.

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