

Action name: Impacts of Water Releases on Recreational Evaluation

Prerequisite Actions: none

Action Description:

Evaluate the effect of varying water release levels and schedules on recreation on the reservoirs and downstream of the reservoirs.

Applicable Hydro Projects/Developments:

Nantahala, Thorpe, Cedar Cliff, Bear Creek, Tennessee, Tuckasegee and Wolf Creek Projects.

I. Objective

The study objective is to determine the affects of varying water release levels and schedules on recreational uses both on the reservoirs and downstream of the reservoirs. The study will need to determine when the varying water release levels and schedules will be mutually beneficial to uses on the lakes and downstream of the reservoirs and identify conflicts among competing uses. This study will evaluate information collected in the Recreational Opportunity Study. Aesthetics studies will be conducted for varying flow release levels.

II. Basis

The basis for the study is a result of 18 CFR Ch. 1 §2.7 Recreational development at licensed projects.

III. Geographic and Temporal Scope

The geographical study area will include the project areas and adjacent lands and the areas downstream of the projects. The study will take approximately one year to complete.

IV. Approach and Analysis

The study plan approach will identify existing water release levels and schedules and potential varying levels and schedules that can be accommodated by the powerhouses and generation needs. Surveys of lake and downstream users will be conducted at the different water release levels and schedules to obtain data for analysis. The analysis of the data from the surveys will be evaluated to see if there are certain water release levels and schedules that can accommodate a majority of users or if alternating water release levels and schedules are appropriate to maximize the limited water resources.

V. Schedules and Required Conditions

The study will need to be conducted over the course of a one year period (probably 2002), with a concentration during the recreation season, to capture the varying recreation uses.

VI. Results

The results expected from this study are to define parameters for water release schedules and levels for meeting both power generation and recreation uses on and downstream of the projects.

VII. Participants

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VIII. Expected Benefits

The expected benefits of this study are to collect information that will allow for the determination of the best water release levels and schedules to meet the varying power generating and recreational needs for the water resources.

IX. List of Attachments

X. List of References