



R. L. Harris Hydroelectric Project

FERC No. 2628

Meeting Summary
Harris Action Team 4 – Project Lands
October 19, 2020
9:00 am to 10:30 am
Conference Call

Participants:

Angie Anderegg – Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power)
Dave Anderson – Alabama Power
Jeff Baker – Alabama Power
Jeff Beason – Alabama Power
Jason Carlee – Alabama Power
Keith Chandler – Alabama Power
Alan Creamer – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
Jim Crew – Alabama Power
Colin Dinken – Kleinschmidt Associates
Amanda Fleming – Kleinschmidt Associates
Todd Fobian – Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)
Chris Goodman – Alabama Power
Keith Henderson – ADCNR
Martha Hunter – Alabama Rivers Alliance (ARA)
Lydia Mayo – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Rachel McNamara – FERC
Ashley McVicar – Alabama Power
Tina Mills – Alabama Power
Brad Mitchell – Stakeholder
Jason Moak – Kleinschmidt Associates
Kelly Schaeffer – Kleinschmidt Associates
Brian Seale – Alabama Power
Sheila Smith – Alabama Power
Thomas St. John – Alabama Power
Stacey Thompson – Alabama Power
Sandra Wash – Kleinschmidt Associates
Jack West – ARA
Ken Wills – Alabama Glade Conservation Coalition

Action Items:

- Develop a summary comparing the current Harris Land Use Plan to the draft Shoreline Management Plan (SMP); include this summary as part of the Final License Application (FLA).
- Develop a summary comparing the current Harris Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) to the draft WMP; include this summary as part of the FLA.

Summary:

Angie Anderegg (Alabama Power) opened the meeting by introducing everyone. Following a safety briefing, Tina Mills (Alabama Power) reviewed the goals and objectives of the Project

Lands Evaluation Study. Additionally, she reviewed the progress of Phase 1, including the September 11, 2019 Harris Action Team (HAT) 4 meeting and the botanical inventory at Flat Rock Park and bobwhite quail habitat survey, which were included in the Draft *Phase 1 Project Lands Evaluation Report*. Currently, an additional adjacent 20-acre tract at Flat Rock is being inventoried. Alabama Power received comments on the Draft *Phase 1 Project Lands Evaluation Report* and filed a Final *Phase 1 Project Lands Evaluation Report* with FERC on October 2, 2020.

For Phase 2, Alabama Power is developing the draft SMP and draft WMP for the Harris Project. Although the Project Lands Evaluation Study Plan called for organizing work groups to develop these two draft documents, both plans are being discussed and developed with the entire HAT 4. Both documents will be filed with the FLA.

Alabama Power provided the Draft SMP and an annotated outline of the WMP to HAT 4 on October 5, 2020, and the purpose of this meeting was to solicit feedback and respond to questions on both documents. Written comments must be provided to Alabama Power on or before November 2, 2020.

Tina presented the SMP outline and discussed the purpose of an SMP. Attachment A contains the presentation. Tina noted that while the Harris Project includes lands at Skyline, those lands are not included in the SMP. Since there is no shoreline at Skyline, management of those lands will be included in WMP.

Ken Wills (Glade Association) asked if the definition of the botanical area was something Alabama Power wanted the Glade Association to develop. Tina asked Ken if the definition for natural/undeveloped land use classification would provide the protections that the Glade Association is interested in for the botanical area. Ken said yes, it is a good classification but may need some specific designation that would provide purpose for the area's protection and potentially a management plan. Tina said that Alabama Power would consider the recommendations from the botanical report and determine if the natural /undeveloped land use classification will be adequate.

Rachel McNamara (FERC) noted that the draft SMP was very thorough. Rachel suggested that Alabama Power include in the FLA a summary that describes the differences between the existing Harris Land Use Plan and the proposed SMP. Angie noted that this SMP will resemble other Alabama Power hydro projects SMPs. Rachel said that FERC prefers to limit site-specific land use classifications but specify additional restrictions within a land use classification. Ken Wills asked if FERC would allow a management plan for a specific area as part of an SMP. Rachel indicated that that is a possibility.

Martha Hunter (ARA) asked how often the flood storage classification is used. Martha noted that downstream property owners have identified flooding as an issue, and she wondered if these lands could be used to address downstream flooding. Tina recommended that operations issues, including flood control, be best addressed in HAT 1 - Project Operations.

Tina then reviewed the presentation regarding the WMP annotated outline): Introduction, Purpose and Plan, Background and Existing Information, Wildlife Management Objectives, Shoreline Management, Timber Management, and Harris Physically Disabled Hunting Areas.

Following the presentation, Rachel asked at what point in the process would Alabama Power submit the WMP. Tina indicated that a Draft WMP is tentatively scheduled to be distributed to the HAT 4 in November/December 2020. Rachel reiterated that it would be helpful to FERC staff to see, within the FLA, a summary of the differences between the current WMP and the Draft WMP. Ken asked if Alabama Power would use the current WMP as a template. Tina suggested that Ken look at other Alabama Power WMPs. Tina reminded HAT 4 participants that written comments on the Draft annotated outline of the WMP are due on or before November 2, 2020.

The meeting adjourned.

Attachment A – Presentation from October 19, 2020 HAT 4 Meeting



HAT 4

Project Lands

- SMP & WMP

Phone Etiquette



- Be patient with any technology issues
- Follow the facilitator's instructions
- Phones will be muted during presentations
- Follow along with PDF of presentations
- Write down any questions you have for the designated question section
- Clearly state name and organization when asking questions
- Facilitator will ask for participant questions following the presentation and as applicable during the presentation

Health & Safety Moment



Aim for seven to eight hours of sleep each night.

- Sleep is when the body repairs itself.
 - Build muscle and restore energy
 - Release hormones that assist in cellular repair
 - Consolidation = brain processes everything you have learned and experienced
- Consolidation = brain processes everything you have learned and experienced
- New neural pathways are built while you sleep

Daytime habits are often the culprit for trouble sleeping

- Sleep schedule and environment
- Bedtime ritual
- Eating and drinking habits
- Exercise patterns
- Stress management
- Medication routine
- Nicotine use

PROJECT LANDS EVALUATION



Goals and Objectives

- Identify lands around Lake Harris and at Skyline that are needed for Harris Project purposes and to classify these lands.
- Evaluate the land use classifications for Harris and determine if any changes are needed to conform to Alabama Power's current land classification system and other Alabama Power FERC-approved Shoreline Management Plans
- Identify lands to be added to, or removed from, the current Harris Project Boundary and/or be reclassified.
- Develop a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP).
- Develop a Wildlife Management Plan (WMP).



STATUS OF PHASE 1 ACTION ITEMS



Status – Phase 1: Complete

- ✓ Meet with HAT 4 to discuss potential changes to the Harris Project lands (add, delete, or reclassify); include tract by tract description, rationale for change, and present in GIS format; consider potential resources impacts; draft a map showing all changes.
 - ✓ HAT 4 meeting was held on 09/11/19; tract by tract discussion, including maps, background information, and rationale for change; overview map of all proposed changes provided.
 - ✓ Meeting summary provided on www.harrisrelicensing.com

- ✓ Conduct a botanical inventory of a 20-acre parcel at Flat Rock
 - Report included in Final Phase 1 Report filed with FERC, emailed to HAT 4, and available at www.harrisrelicensing.com
 - Evaluation of adjacent, additional 20-acre tract currently underway; report will be provided upon completion

- ✓ Evaluate acreage at Skyline to determine suitability for bobwhite quail habitat
 - Results of evaluation included in Final Phase 1 Report filed with FERC, emailed to HAT 4, and available at www.harrisrelicensing.com

- ✓ Develop a Draft and Final Phase 1 Project Lands Evaluation Study Report
 - 04/10/20: Draft Phase 1 report filed with FERC, emailed to HAT 4, and available at www.harrisrelicensing.com
 - 10/02/20: Final Phase 1 report filed with FERC, emailed to HAT 4, and available at www.harrisrelicensing.com



PHASE 2 ACTION ITEMS



Phase 2:

Phase 2 includes developing a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and a Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) to file with the final license application. In addition to the results from the Phase 1 Land Use Evaluation, Alabama Power will also integrate information collected during other relicensing studies (e.g., T&E, water quality, and recreation studies), as appropriate, to the SMP and WMP.

Status – Shoreline Management Plan & Wildlife Management Plan

~~Form a HAT 4 work groups~~

- ✓ Create a Draft Shoreline Management Plan in consultation with HAT 4
 - Draft version provided to HAT 4 via email on 10/05/20
 - Solicit stakeholder feedback during meeting on 10/19/20
 - Written comments due no later than 11/02/20

- ✓ Create a Draft Wildlife Management Plan in consultation with HAT 4
 - Annotated outline provided to HAT 4 via email on 10/05/20
 - Solicit stakeholder feedback during meeting on 10/19/20
 - Written comments due no later than 11/02/20

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



Why develop a Shoreline Management Plan?

FERC issues licenses for non-federal hydropower projects.

(This includes Harris.)

Each project is unique. The license identifies all project purposes (such as operation and maintenance, flowage, public recreation, public access, etc.) and specifies any requirements.

(Harris = power generation, navigation, public recreation, etc.)

Typically a licensee will own or have the necessary rights to all submerged lands and any lands that fall within the operating levels of the reservoir...

(Harris = 795' msl)

...as well as a shoreline buffer.

(Harris = scenic easement up to 800' msl or 50 horizontal feet from 793' msl, whichever is less, but never less than 795' msl).

“...a licensee may authorize specific uses and occupancies of the project shoreline that are not related to hydroelectric power or other project purposes...” a.k.a. non-project uses

(In other words, permits for residential boat docks, boathouses, boat ramps, piers, shoreline stabilization materials, etc. as well as commercial marinas)



SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



Thus, ultimately...

Licensees have a responsibility to ensure that shoreline development activities that occur within a project boundary are consistent with project license requirements, purposes, and operations.

How is this accomplished?

An SMP is a comprehensive plan to manage the multiple resources and uses of the project's shorelines in a manner that is consistent with license requirements and project purposes and addresses the needs of the public.



SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



So, we need an SMP...what should it include?

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Purpose and Goals
- 3.0 Shoreline Management Policies
- 4.0 Shoreline Management Classifications
- 5.0 Alabama Power's Shoreline Compliance Program
- 6.0 Best Management Practices & Erosion and Sedimentation Control
- 7.0 SMP Review Process

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



2.0 Purpose and Goals

Purpose:

...serve as a comprehensive guide for managing Project shoreline lands consistent with license requirements and Project purposes.

Overarching Goal:

...ensure that shoreline development is consistent with the protection and enhancement of environmental, scenic, cultural, and recreational values, while ensuring the continued safe and reliable production of hydroelectric power at the Project.



SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



General Goals:

- facilitate compliance with license articles;
- provide for reasonable public access;
- protect fish and wildlife habitat;
- protect cultural resources;
- protect operational needs;
- minimize adverse impacts to water quality;
- minimize erosion;
- minimize sedimentation
- minimize adverse scenic effects; and
- guide shoreline development.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



3.0 Shoreline Management Policies

...designed to guide existing and future shoreline management actions at the Project.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



3.1 Shoreline Conservation Policy

Alabama Power Company actively promotes the conservation and protection of Project shoreline lands and their associated scenic, cultural, recreational, and environmental values.

- Enforcement of enforcement of existing state and federal regulations including, but not limited to, the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Wetlands Protection Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and the Federal Power Act.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



3.2 Shoreline Management Policies

- Bank Stabilization
.... Riprap and natural bank stabilization are the preferred methods of erosion control; however, use of seawalls will be evaluated and may be approved on a case-by-case basis
- Dredging
...in accordance with FERC-approved Dredge Permit Program...developed in consultation with USACE...for dredging activities up to 500 cubic yards of material...

Dredging may be allowed but will be restricted in and around sensitive resource areas. Requests Will be considered on a case-by-case basis...



SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



3.2 Shoreline Management Policies

- Channelization
It is the policy of Alabama Power to prohibit channelization on its reservoirs.
- Water Withdrawals
 - ...obtain FERC authorization before permitting a water withdrawal greater than 1 million gallons per day
 - ...delegated authority to Alabama Power to permit water withdrawal of 1 million gallons per day or less
- Causeways
 - ...prohibit the creation of causeways...to connect islands to the mainland or to other islands.



SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



4.0 Shoreline Management Classifications

...shoreline classification system to guide management and permitting activities within the Project Boundary.

...based on an evaluation of existing and potential land use.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



4.1.1 Project Operations

...Project lands reserved for current and potential future operational activities. This includes all Project lands used for

- hydroelectric generation,
- switchyards,
- transmission facilities,
- rights-of-way,
- security, and
- other operational uses.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



4.1.2 Recreation

...Project lands managed by Alabama Power for existing or potential future recreational activities. This includes land

- developed for public recreation,
- open space,
- water access, and
- future recreational development.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



4.1.3 Commercial Recreation

These lands contain or are designated for concessionaire-operated public marinas and recreational areas that provide a wide variety of recreational services to the public on a fee basis.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



4.1.3 Commercial Recreation

These lands contain or are designated for concessionaire-operated public marinas and recreational areas that provide a wide variety of recreational services to the public on a fee basis.

Edits from previously discussed/drafted definitions:

Lands ~~containing existing~~ **contain or are designated for** concessionaire-operated public marinas and recreational areas that provide a wide variety of recreational services to the public on a fee basis.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



4.1.4 Flood Storage

This classification includes lands located between the 793' mean sea level (msl) contour and the 795' msl contour. These lands are owned in fee simple by Alabama Power and are used for the project purpose of storing flood waters from time to time.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)

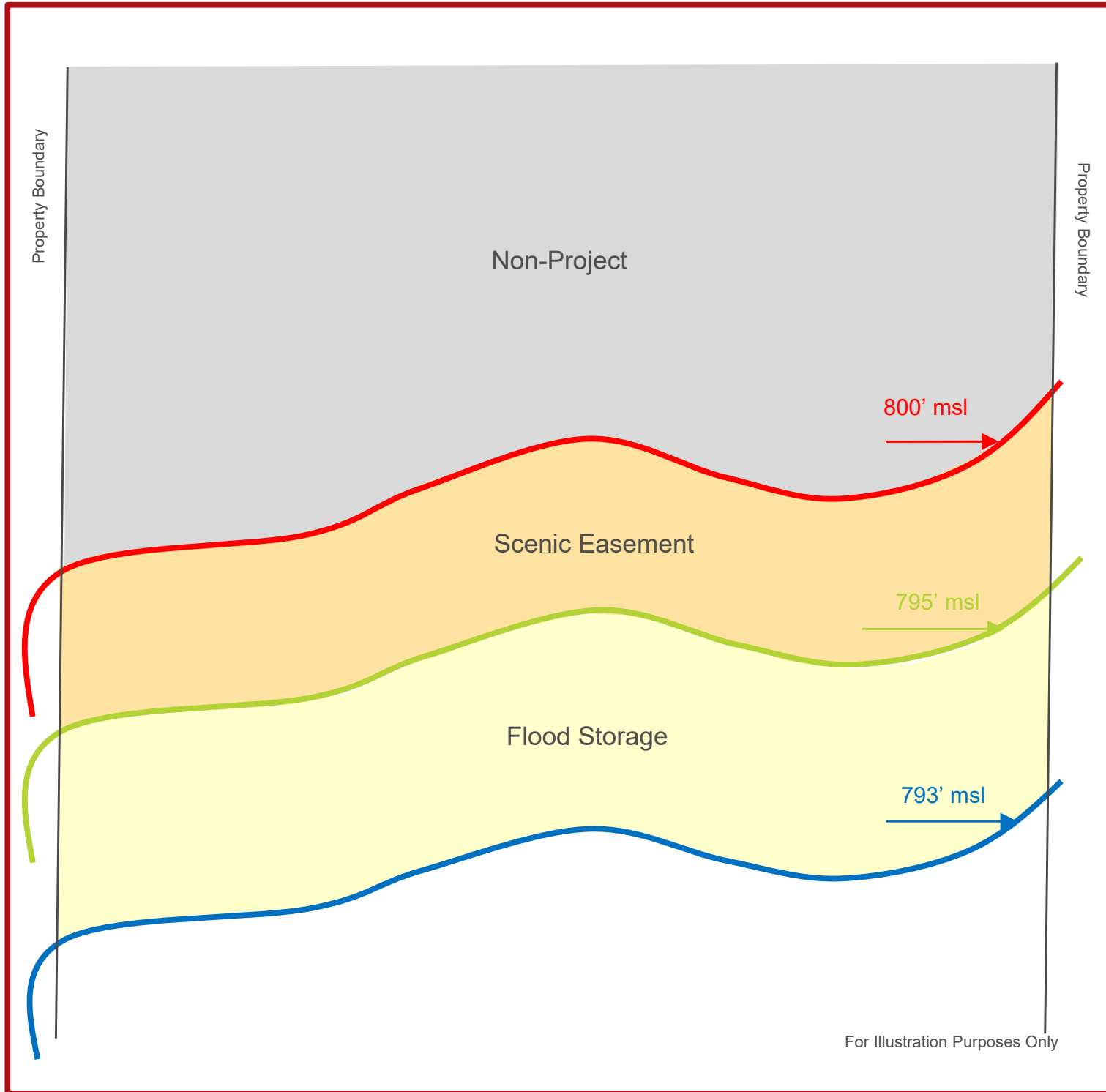


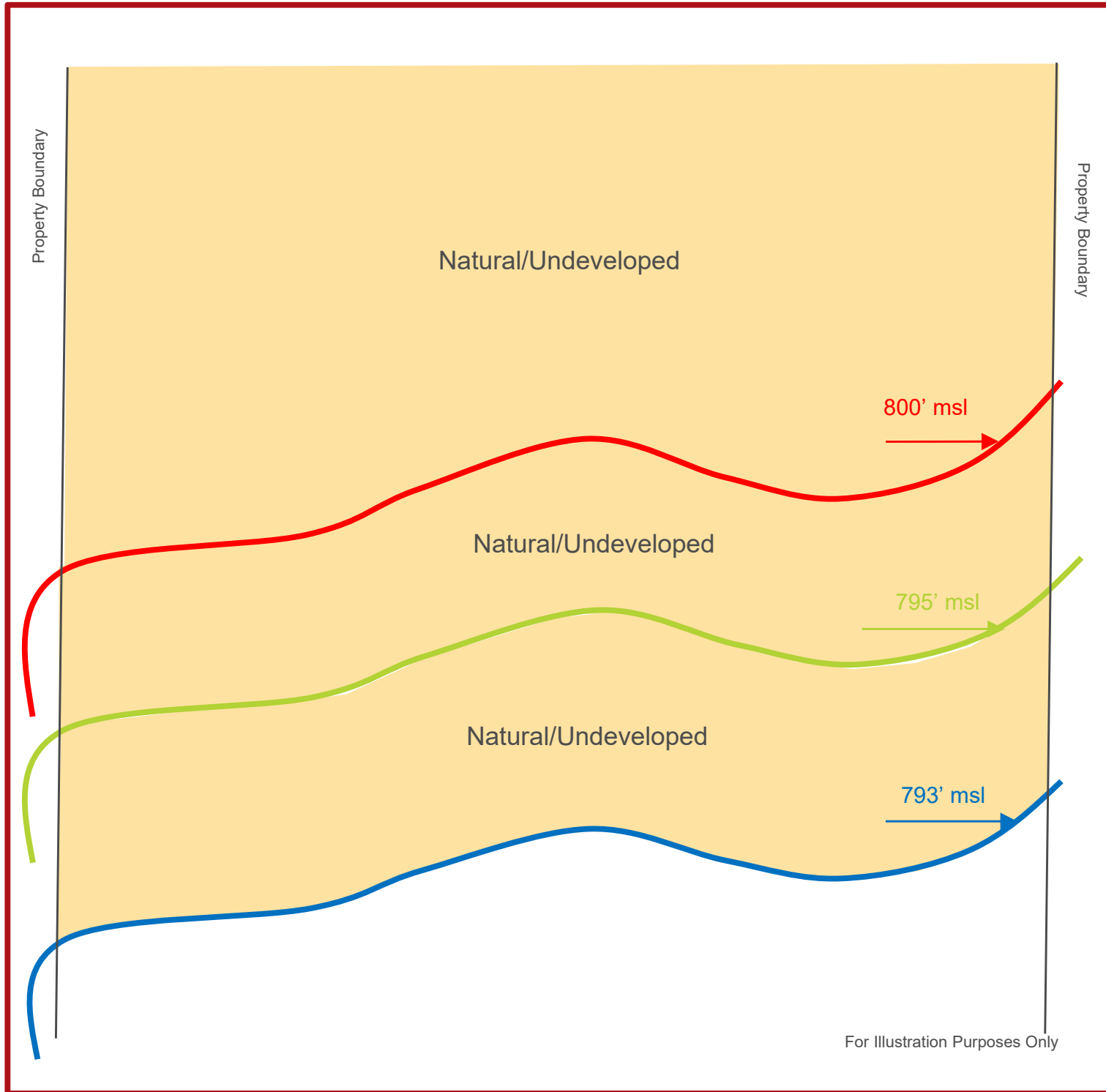
4.1.4 Flood Storage

This classification includes lands located between the 793' mean sea level (msl) contour and the 795' msl contour. These lands are owned in fee simple by Alabama Power and are used for the project purpose of storing flood waters from time to time.

Edits from previously discussed/drafted definitions:

~~...all lands located between the 793' mean sea level (msl) contour and the 795' msl contour, which are owned in fee simple by Alabama Power and are used for the project purpose of storing flood waters from time to time and where the back acreage is non-project lands.~~





SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



4.1.5 Scenic Easement

This classification includes lands located between the 795' msl contour and the 800' msl contour (or 50 horizontal feet from 793 feet msl, whichever is less, but never less than 795 feet msl). These lands are controlled by easement for the project purpose of protecting scenic and environmental values.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



4.1.5 Scenic Easement

This classification includes lands located between the 795' msl contour and the 800' msl contour (or 50 horizontal feet from 793' msl, whichever is less, but never less than 795' msl). These lands are controlled by easement for the project purpose of protecting scenic and environmental values.

Edits from previously discussed/drafted definitions:

~~Scenic Buffer Zone~~ **Scenic Easement**

~~...all~~ lands located between the 795' msl contour and the 800' msl contour (or 50 horizontal feet from 793' msl, whichever is less, but never less than 795' msl) which includes lands ~~either owned by Alabama Power in fee simple or areas controlled by easement~~ for the project purpose of protecting scenic and environmental values.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



4.1.6 Hunting

This classification includes lands that are managed to provide hunting opportunities...

Non-hunting related public access is allowed from May 1 until September 30 of each year for activities such as hiking, camping, wildlife observation, and bank fishing opportunities.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



4.1.7 Natural/Undeveloped

...will remain undeveloped for the following specific Project purposes:

- protecting environmentally sensitive areas;
- preserving natural aesthetic qualities;
- serving as buffer zones around public recreation areas; and
- preventing overcrowding of partially developed shoreline.

...allows for public hiking trails, nature studies, primitive camping, wildlife management (excluding hunting), and normal forestry practices...

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



4.1.8 Flat Rock Botanical Area

HAT 4 Discussion

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



4.2 Sensitive Resources Designation

- Used in conjunction with shoreline classifications (i.e. overlay)
- Used on Project lands managed for the protection and enhancement of resources which are protected by state and/or federal law, executive order, or where other natural features are present which are considered important to the area or natural environment.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



4.2.1 Allowable Uses in Areas Designated as Sensitive Resources

4.2.1.1 Wetlands

- Any disturbance is discouraged.
- If permitted wishes to pursue, permit requests will be reviewed, and a determination of impacts will be made considering all applicable rules and regulations.
- PGPs grant Alabama Power permission to issue permits but do not authorize Alabama Power to permit dredge or fill in wetlands.

4.2.1.2 Cultural Resources

- Alabama Power will use HPMP and PA for guidance

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



5.0 Alabama Power's Shoreline Compliance Program

5.1 Shoreline Permitting

- A permit is needed when an activity proposed by an entity, often a shoreline property owner, could affect lands within the Project Boundary.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



5.0 Alabama Power's Shoreline Compliance Program

5.1 Shoreline Permitting

- A permit is needed when an activity proposed by an entity, often a shoreline property owner, could affect lands within the Project Boundary.

5.1.1 Permitting Guidelines

- ...developed the “General Guidelines for Residential Shoreline Permitting and Permit Terms and Conditions
- ...considered general, since each reservoir and lot is unique...

5.1.1.1 Residential Guidelines

5.1.1.2 Non-Residential Permits



SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



5.0 Alabama Power's Shoreline Compliance Program

5.1.1.1 Residential Permitting

- Shoreline property owner generally initiates the permit process to obtain a “Lakeshore Use Permit” (permit).
- Alabama Power reviews the application to determine if the proposed project meets the General Guidelines for Residential Shoreline Permitting, the USACE PGP Conditions, and the Dredge Permit Program.

5.1.1.2 Non-Residential Permits (NRPs)

- Non-Residential (marinas, and may also cover parks, overnight campgrounds, etc.)
- Multiple Single-Family Type Dwellings (condos, planned residential facilities, long-term campgrounds, etc.)
- Easements (i.e. roads, utilities, etc.)

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



5.0 Alabama Power's Shoreline Compliance Program

5.1.2 Permit Enforcement

5.1.3 Permit Transferability

5.1.4 Permit Revocation

5.1.5 Dilapidated, Abandoned, and Unpermitted Structures



SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



5.0 Alabama Power's Shoreline Compliance Program

5.2 Structure Identification, Assessment, and Resolution

- Alabama Power began identifying all existing permitted structures and unpermitted legacy structures
- Worked with unpermitted legacy structure owner for non-conforming structures

5.3 Surveillance Program

- Alabama Power surveys the shorelines to document emerging issues and track them to resolution

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



6.0 Best Management Practices & Erosion and Sedimentation Control

6.1 Best Management Practices

- BMPs are on-site actions implemented by an individual or group to lessen the potential direct or indirect effects of the use of a particular resource.

6.1.1 Buffers and Vegetation Management

6.1.2 Water Quality

6.1.3 Property Development and Management

6.2 Erosion and Sediment Control

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



7.0 Shoreline Management Plan Review Process

- Review every ten years with continued input from interested parties
- Continuously update information related to sensitive resources
- Begin review process with consulting agencies by December 31 of the ninth year of the 10-year cycle
- Issue report with number of permits processed on each shoreline classification type
- Host public workshop
- By December 31st of tenth year of cycle – filing that describes consultation, and proposed modifications

PHASE 2 ACTION ITEMS



Phase 2:

Phase 2 includes developing a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and a Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) to file with the final license application. In addition to the results from the Phase 1 Land Use Evaluation, Alabama Power will also integrate information collected during other relicensing studies (e.g., T&E, water quality, and recreation studies), as appropriate, to the SMP and WMP.

Status – Shoreline Management Plan & Wildlife Management Plan

~~☐ Form a HAT 4 work groups~~

- ✓ Create a Draft Shoreline Management Plan in consultation with HAT 4
 - Draft version provided to HAT 4 via email on 10/05/20
 - Solicit stakeholder feedback during meeting on 10/19/20
 - Written comments due no later than 11/02/20

- ✓ Create a Draft Wildlife Management Plan in consultation with HAT 4
 - Annotated outline provided to HAT 4 via email on 10/05/20
 - Solicit stakeholder feedback during meeting on 10/19/20
 - Written comments due no later than 11/02/20

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN (WMP)



1.0 Introduction

2.0 Purpose of the Plan

...to protect and enhance the available wildlife habitat within the Project boundaries of the Harris Project

3.0 Background and Existing Information

- History of FERC-approved plans
- Description of resources (i.e. typical upland and semi-aquatic wildlife species and habitat)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN (WMP)



4.0 Wildlife Management Objectives

- 1) Management of shoreline areas for native vegetative communities and enhanced value as wildlife habitat;
- 2) Implementation of timber management methods that result in enhanced value of project lands as wildlife habitat;
- 3) Management of public hunting areas for the physically disabled.

5.0 Shoreline Management

6.0 Timber Management

7.0 Harris Physically Disabled Hunting Areas



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN (WMP)



5.0 Shoreline Management

- GIS system to guide future management actions and protect natural resources.
- BMPs pertaining to the preservation or establishment of shoreline buffer zones of unmanaged vegetation around the reservoir, as discussed in the SMP.
- Planting of native trees, shrubs, and plant species for landscaping and for purposes of shoreline stabilization, as specified in the SMP.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN (WMP)



6.0 Timber Management

- Historic and current timber management practices for Lake Harris and Skyline, including selective cutting, natural regeneration, and planting.
- Timber stand composition for Lake Harris and Skyline, including percent cover and acreage
- Information regarding northern long-eared and Indiana bats.
- If applicable, information regarding impaired waters.

7.0 Harris Physically Disabled Hunting Areas

- Background information and management actions regarding physically disabled hunting areas at Harris.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)



Next Steps

- Shoreline Management Plan
 - Written comments due no later than 11/02/20
 - Alabama Power will incorporate comments written comments and well as comments from today's meeting as applicable
 - As needed, a revised draft SMP will be provided to HAT 4 for review and comment

- Wildlife Management Plan
 - Written comments due no later than 11/02/20
 - Alabama Power will incorporate comments written comments and well as comments from today's meeting, as applicable, into a draft WMP
 - A draft WMP will be provided to HAT 4 for review and comment