Recreation Evaluation Report

R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project

FERC No. 2628

HARRIS DAM RELICENSING



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power) owns and operates the R.L. Harris Project (FERC Project No. 2628) (Harris Project), licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission). Alabama Power is relicensing the 135-megawatt (MW) Harris Project, and the existing license expires in 2023. The Harris Project consists of a dam, spillway, powerhouse, and those lands and waters necessary for the operation of the hydroelectric project and enhancement and protection of environmental resources. These structures, lands, and water are enclosed within the FERC Project Boundary. Under the existing Harris Project license, the FERC Project Boundary encloses two distinct geographic areas, described below.



Harris Reservoir is the 9,870-acre reservoir (Harris Reservoir) created by the R.L. Harris Dam (Harris Dam). Harris Reservoir is located on the Tallapoosa River, near Lineville, Alabama. The lands adjoining the reservoir total approximately 7,392 acres and are included in the FERC Project Boundary (Figure 1-1). This includes land to 795- feet mean sea level (msl)[1], as well as natural undeveloped areas, hunting lands, prohibited access areas, recreational areas, and all islands.

The Harris Project also contains 15,063 acres of land within the James D. Martin-Skyline Wildlife Management Area (Skyline WMA) located in Jackson County, Alabama (Figure 1-2). These lands are located approximately 110 miles north of Harris Reservoir and were acquired and incorporated into the FERC Project Boundary as part of the FERC-approved Harris Project Wildlife Mitigative Plan and Wildlife Management Plan. These lands are leased to, and managed by, the State of Alabama for wildlife management and public hunting and are part of the Skyline WMA (ADCNR 2016b).

For the purposes of this study, "Lake Harris" refers to the 9,870-acre reservoir, adjacent 7,392 acres of Project land, and the dam, spillway, and powerhouse. "Skyline" refers to the 15,063 acres of Project land within the Skyline WMA in Jackson County. "Harris Project"

[1] Also includes a scenic easement (to 800 feet msl or 50 horizontal feet from 793 feet msl, whichever is less, but never less than 795 feet msl).

refers to all the lands, waters, and structures enclosed within the FERC Project Boundary, which includes both Lake Harris and Skyline. Harris Reservoir refers to the 9,870-acre reservoir only; Harris Dam refers to the dam, spillway, and powerhouse. The Project Area refers to the land and water in the Project Boundary and immediate geographic area adjacent to the Project Boundary (Alabama Power 2018). Lake Harris and Skyline are located within two river basins: the Tallapoosa and Tennessee River Basins, respectively. The only waterbody managed by Alabama Power as part of their FERC license for the Harris Project is the Harris Reservoir.

Commonly used acronyms that may appear in this report are included in Appendix A.

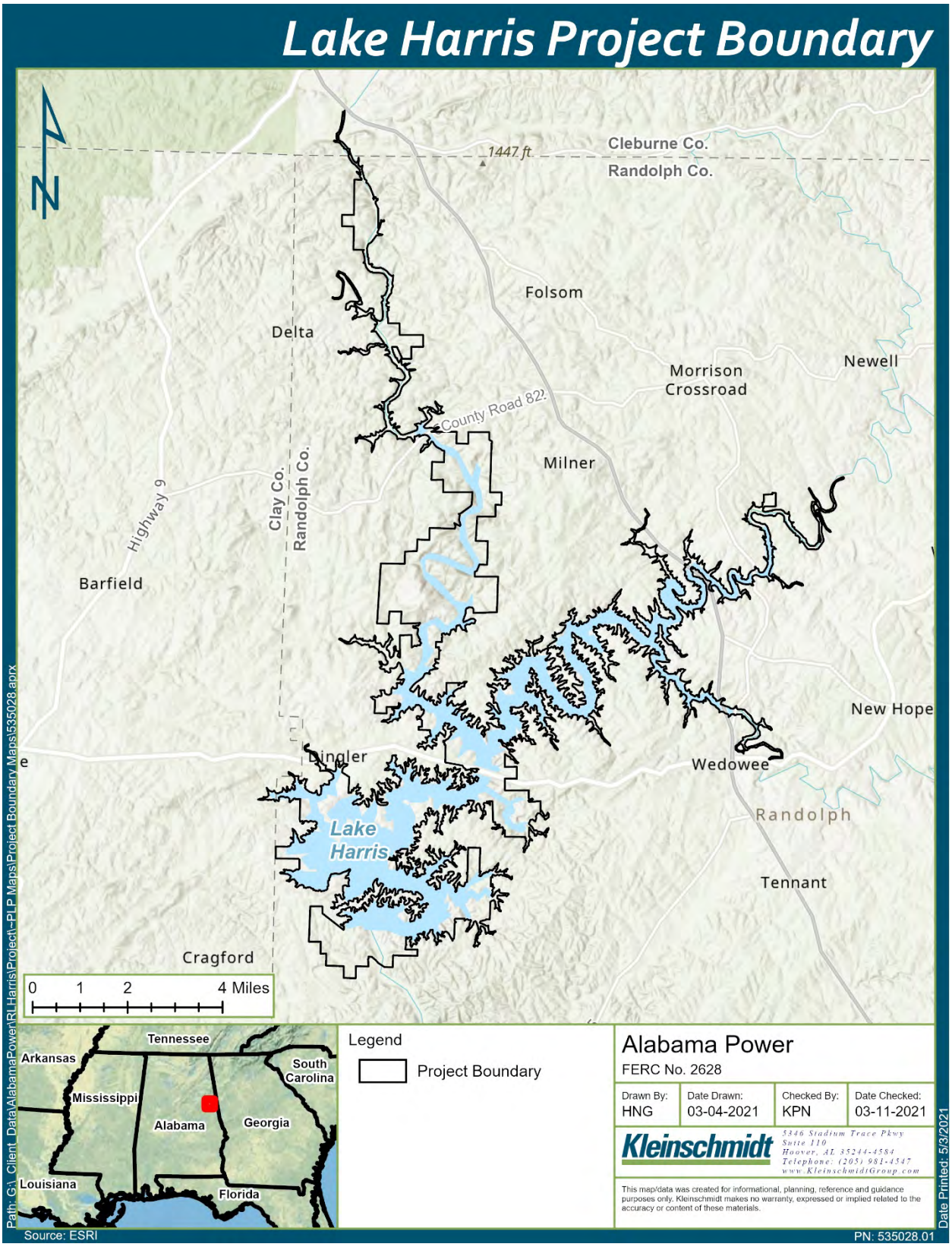

Figure 1–1 Lake Harris Project Boundary

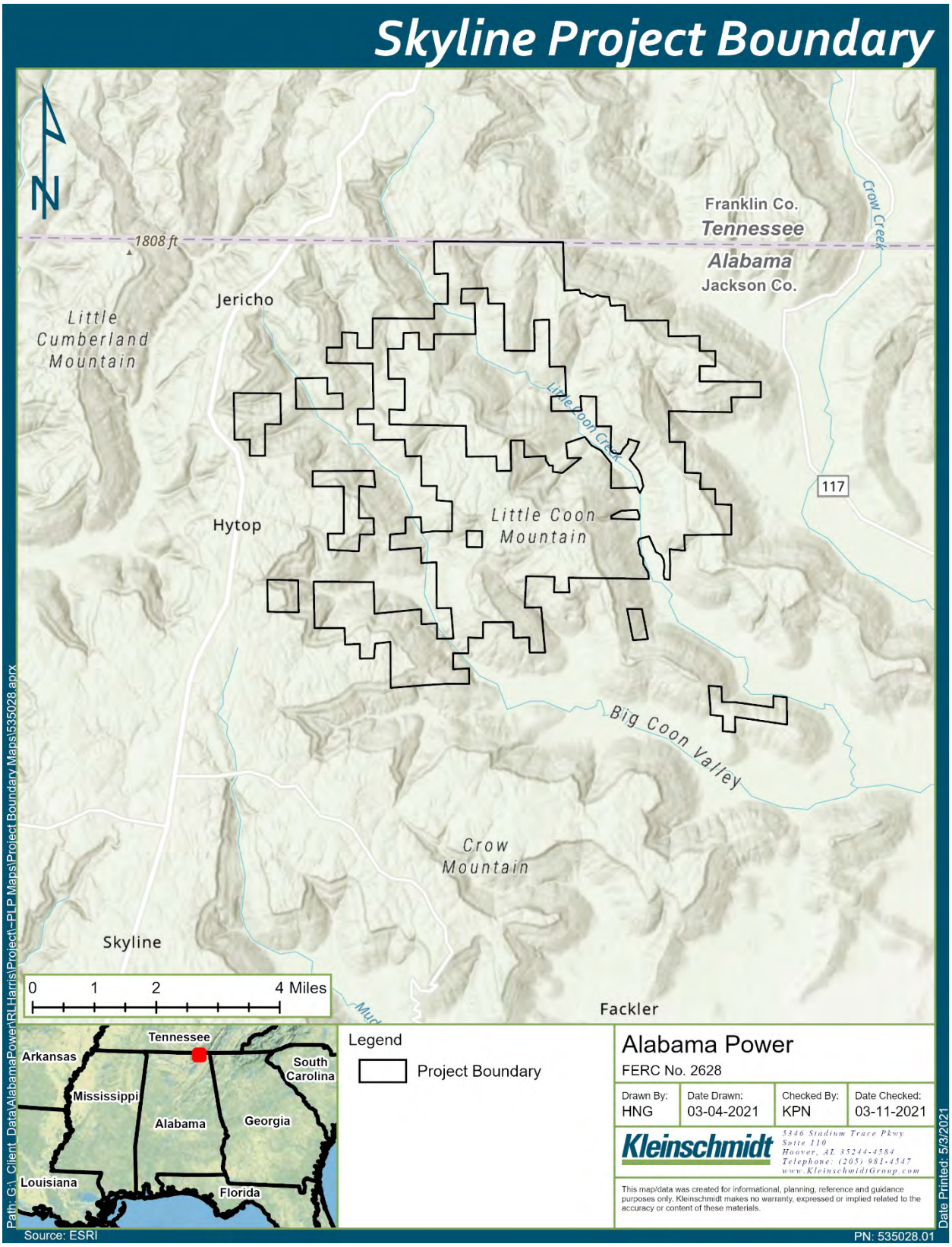

Figure 1–2 Skyline Project Boundary

1.1 Study Background

This Recreation Evaluation was designed to examine recreation use of the Harris Project and describes the existing Harris Project recreation facilities, discusses current and future use estimates, and evaluates the need for additional recreation facilities at the Harris Project in the future. This Recreation Evaluation also describes recreation use of the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam.

1.1.1 Study Area Description

The Lake Harris Study Area is located within Clay, Cleburne, and Randolph counties, Alabama and includes recreation opportunities around the Harris Reservoir. Lake Harris and upstream portions of the Tallapoosa River in the Project Boundary provide additional, more riverine boating and fishing opportunities. Recreation within the Lake Harris Study Area is generally available for public use and typically includes boating (non-motorized and motorized), fishing, water sports, swimming, picnicking, and hiking.

The Harris Reservoir extends up the Tallapoosa River approximately 29 miles from Harris Dam, which is located at river mile (RM) 139.1. Lake Harris has approximately 367 miles of shoreline. At a normal full pool elevation of 793-feet msl, the reservoir surface area is approximately 9,870 acres (17-square miles) and has a mandatory 8-foot drawdown to 785-feet msl from December to April. From May 1 through October 1, Harris Reservoir is maintained at or below elevation 793-feet msl, depending on inflow conditions, which corresponds to the storage of 425,721 acre-feet. Between October 1 and December 1, the operating curve elevation drops to elevation 785-feet msl. The pool level remains at or below elevation 785-feet msl until April 1. From April 1 to May 1, the operating curve elevation rises to full pool at elevation 793-feet msl.

The Recreation Evaluation of the Lake Harris Study Area includes the examination of 12 Project recreation sites[2] around the Harris Reservoir (Table 1-1) and two non-Project recreation sites, Lakeside Marina and Wedowee Marine (Figure 1-3). Reports relevant to the Lake Harris Study Area are the *Lake Harris Recreation Site Inventory and Condition Assessment* (Appendix B)*, Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access*

[2] Project recreation sites are only those required by FERC action and considered FERC-approved. FERC-approved recreation facilities may be required by the project license, an approved recreation plan or recreation plan amendment, or any other requirements that address the provision of recreation at the project.

Questionnaires (Appendix C), and *Lake Harris Public Access Questionnaires Zip Code Analysis* (Appendix D).

Table 1-1 Harris Project Recreation Sites

Recreation Site Name	Type of Facility
Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Crescent Crest Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Flat Rock Park	Day Use Park
Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier	Fishing Access
Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Lonnie White Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Swagg Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Wedowee Marine South[3]	Marina
R. L. Harris Management Area	Hunting

The Recreation Evaluation also includes a Tallapoosa River Study Area (Figure 1-4), which encompasses the Harold Banks Canoe Trail (HBCT) on the Tallapoosa River and two sections of the Tallapoosa River immediately upstream from HBCT. The HBCT includes the stretch of river from Bibby's Ferry to Jaybird Landing.[4] The HBCT contains four access points: Bibby's Ferry, Germany's Ferry, Horseshoe Bend National Military Park (Horseshoe Bend)[5], and Jaybird Landing (Table 1-2). Jaybird Landing serves as an exit location for those floating downstream from Horseshoe Bend (or other upstream access points) but

[3] Wedowee Marine South is a private facility, but it is within the Harris Project Boundary and parts of it are considered a Project recreation site.

[4] Jaybird Landing, as identified in the Martin Dam Project (FERC No. 349) Recreation Plan (162 FERC 62,033) is noted as Jay Bird Creek in the HBCT brochure (https://ssl.acesag.auburn.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-2229/ANR-2229-archive.pdf).

[5] Horseshoe Bend National Military Park offers numerous recreation opportunities including picnicking, bicycling, and hiking. For the purpose of this study only the Horseshoe Bend Boat Launch is relevant.

is also used for access upstream to Irwin Shoals. In addition, two sections of the Tallapoosa River, from the County Road 15 bridge in Malone to the Alabama Highway 22 bridge in Wadley and from Wadley to Bibby's Ferry, were included in the Tallapoosa River Study Area. The section of river from the Harris Dam to Malone was not part of the overall study, although Malone was sampled intermittently.[6] Reports related to the Tallapoosa River Study Area are the *Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey* (Appendix E), *Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey* (Appendix F), *Tallapoosa River Recreation Surveys Open-Ended Comment Responses* (Appendix G), and *Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey*s (Appendix H).

Table 1-2 Tallapoosa River Study Area Recreation Sites

Recreation Site Name	Type of Facility	River Mile	Ownership
Malone	Canoe Portage	7.3	Private
Wadley	Canoe Portage	13.8	Private
Bibby's Ferry	Canoe Portage	25.2	Public – Chambers County, AL
Germany's Ferry	Boat Launch	33.3	Private
Horseshoe Bend National Military Park Boat Launch	Boat Launch	43.0	Public – National Park Service
Jaybird Landing	Boat Launch	48.6	Public – Alabama Power Company

Note: Portions of the sites under private ownership may be positioned on a county or state road right-of-way.

The Skyline Study Area (Figure 1-5) includes the entire Skyline WMA. The Skyline WMA provides public hunting opportunities and the report related to the Skyline Study Area is *Man-Days Hunted and Harvest Estimates Used in Alabama Hunting* (Appendix I).

[6] One access point between Horseshoe Bend and Jaybird Landing (Peters Island) was deemed unusable. as it is remote and requires a four-wheel drive vehicle for access.

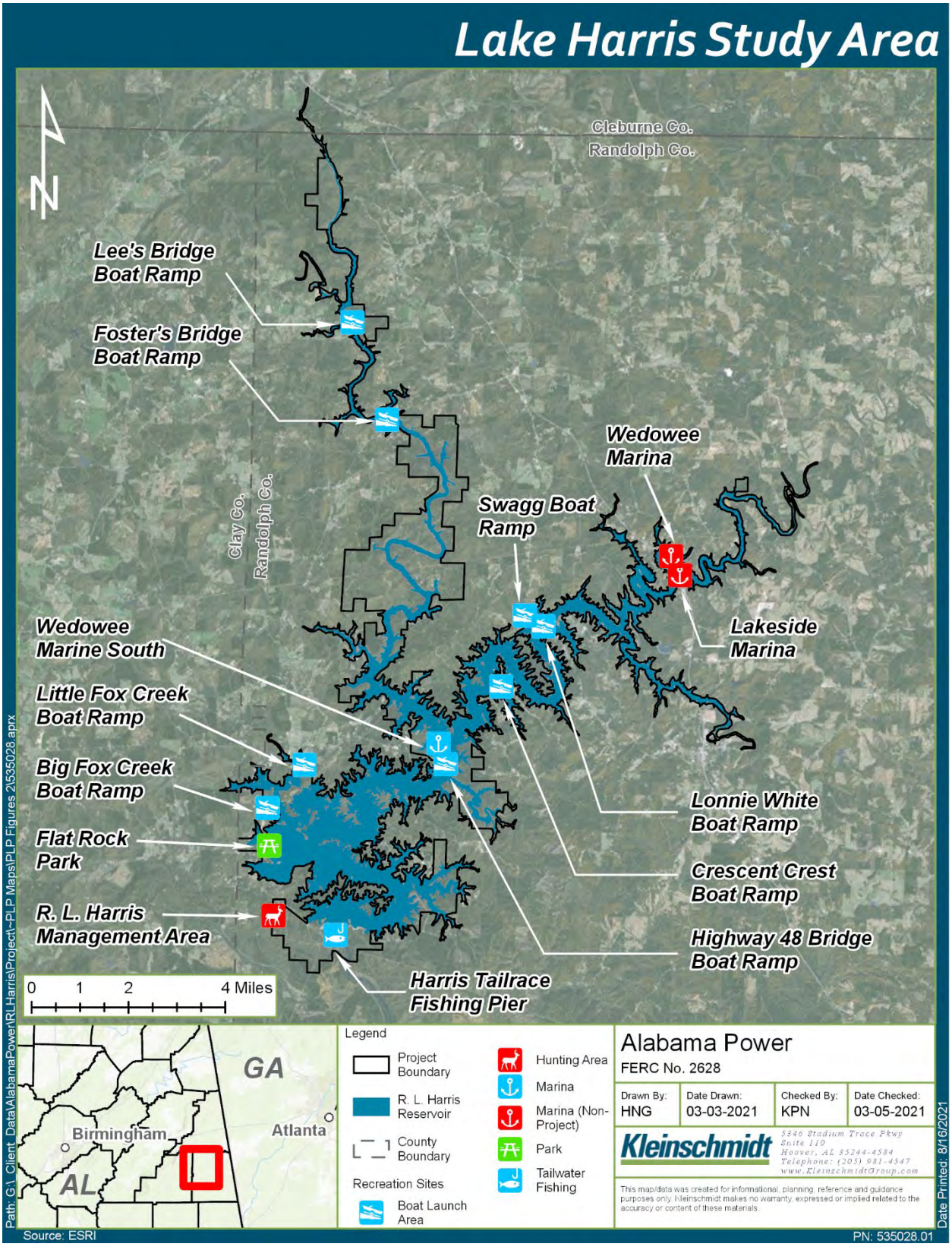

Figure 1–3 Lake Harris Study Area

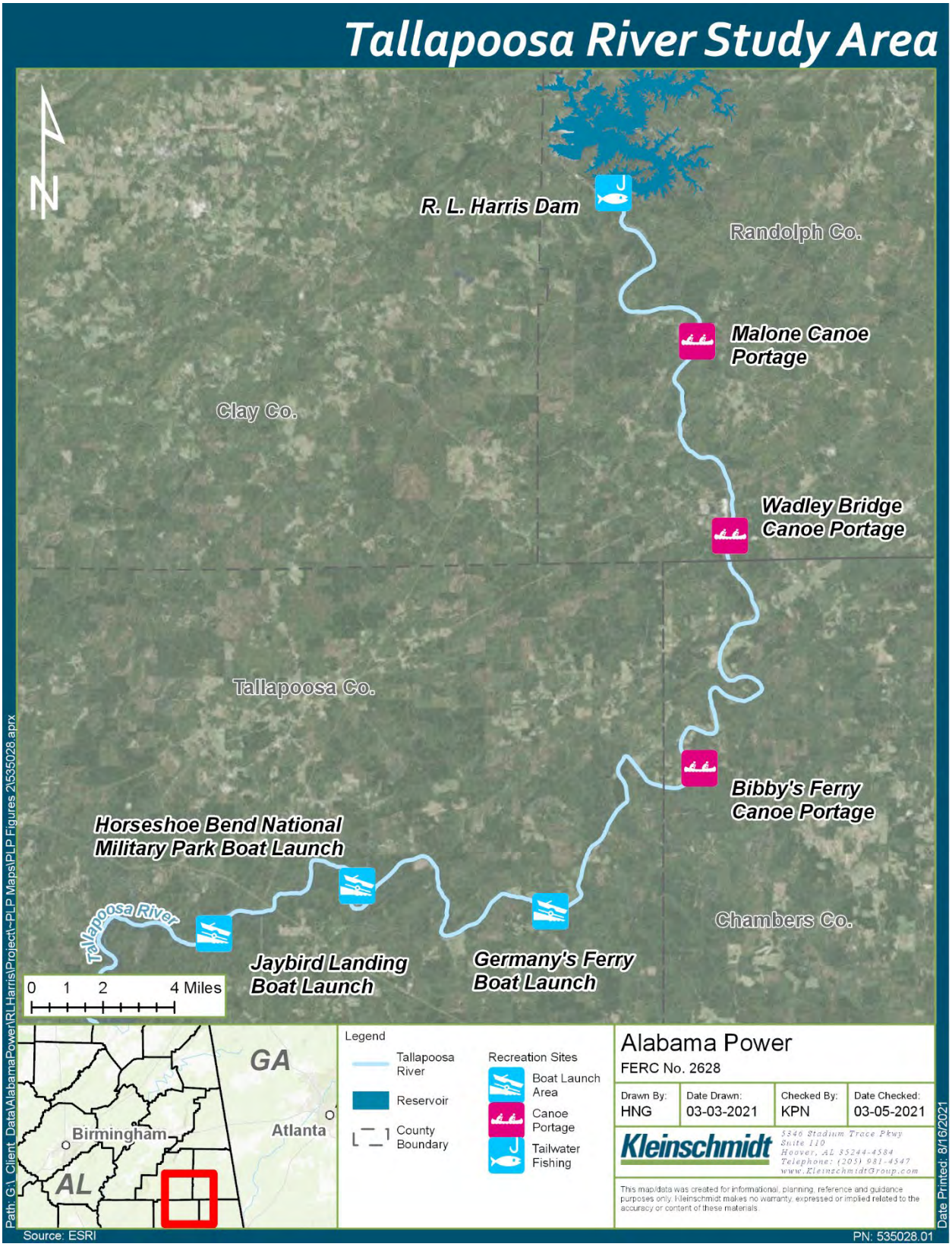

Figure 1–4 Tallapoosa River Study Area

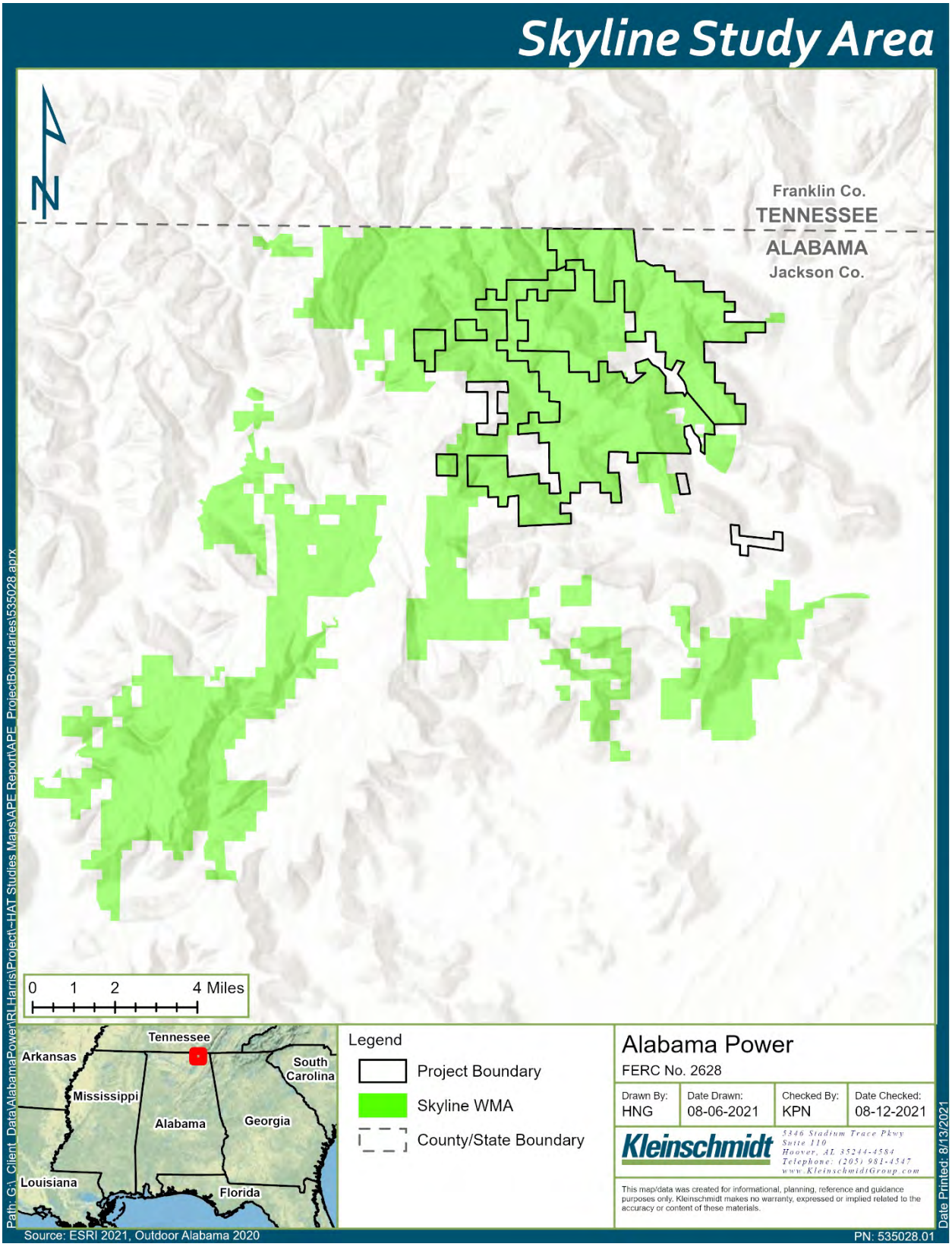

Figure 1–5 Skyline Study Area

1.1.2 Goals and Objectives

The final *Harris Project Recreation Evaluation Study Plan* identified three study goals. These study goals along with the objectives of each component are described below.

Goal 1

Existing Use: Gather baseline information on existing Project recreation facilities and existing Project recreational use and capacity.

The objectives of this component of the study were accomplished by:

- Reviewing existing information on current Project recreation sites and inventorying and mapping (using Geographic Information Systems (GIS)) existing Project recreation sites and access areas within the Project Boundary, including site locations and facilities/amenities;
- Summarizing who owns, operates, and maintains each Project recreation site;
- Evaluating the condition of the Harris Project recreation sites and facilities within the Project Boundary, including existing information on the suitability of facilities to provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in recreation activities, where feasible, and public safety features;
- Estimating current recreation use and the current and projected use capacity at Harris Project recreation sites;
- Analyzing user satisfaction with conditions at existing recreation sites; and
- Summarizing use data on measures of hunting activity and number of animals harvested in the Skyline WMA from Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR).

Goal 2

Downstream Use: Determine how flows in the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam affect recreational users and their activity. User groups include bank and boat (primarily canoe/kayak) anglers, recreational boaters, float tube users, and those who may be using access points for swimming.

The objectives of this component of the study were accomplished by:

- Calculating total visitation (effort) and daily effort levels by user groups in the Tallapoosa River Study Area during the study period (May 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019);
- Measuring user attitudes/perceptions about instream flow and trip satisfaction in the Tallapoosa River Study Area on the day they are intercepted during this study period;
- Obtaining catch information from anglers intercepted during this period; and
- Determining how instream flow affected a) overall effort, b) daily effort by each user group, c) perception of instream flow and trip satisfaction by user group, and d) species of fish targeted, caught, and retained.

As Alabama Power gathered information on recreation use of the Tallapoosa River downstream of the Harris Project as outlined in the *Recreation Evaluation Study Plan*, researchers noted a lack of information from downstream landowners. In order to supplement data collected at public recreation sites on the Tallapoosa River downstream of the Harris Project, landowners were surveyed downstream of Harris Dam as described in the December 19, 2019 Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey Research Plan (Appendix J).

The additional objectives of this component of the study were accomplished by:

- Identifying residential, vacation, forestry, agricultural, or vacant land[7] adjacent to the Tallapoosa River in Randolph, Chambers, or Tallapoosa counties that could be used for river-related recreation and obtaining landowner mailing addresses;
- Developing a survey instrument to collect information from downstream landowners on their recreational use of the Tallapoosa River, use by others they may provide access to on their property, landowner perception of instream flow, and their attitudes about recreation and other resource issues on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing;
- Sending landowners hard copy surveys and letters which provided directions to complete the survey online; and

[7] Forestry landowners were added after initial mailing.

- Developing an internet-based survey instrument to collect anonymous information from Tallapoosa River recreationists on their participation in river-related recreation downstream of Harris Dam, and attitudes about various aspects of the Tallapoosa River and water levels.

Goal 3

Future Needs: Identify future recreational needs relating to public recreation sites on Lake Harris and downstream of Harris Dam. This objective was accomplished by:

- Estimating future recreational use of existing Project recreation sites;
- Identifying potential future needs for new Project recreation sites and facilities;
- Analyzing user input on needs for new Project recreation sites and facilities; and
- Analyzing public input on Tallapoosa River access and facilities.

2.0 METHODS

This section describes the development and design of data collection efforts and analyses.

2.1 Data Collection

Table 2-1 provides the research durations for the of the various components of the Harris Project Recreation Evaluation. Table 2-2 provides a summary of the study goals and the study components and approach to accomplishing each of the goals. This table also identifies the appendices and sections in this report that are relevant to each of the goals.

Table 2-1 Research Duration

Research Component	Dates
Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires	User Counts- March 11, 2019 to Dec 15, 2019 Questionnaires- May 10, 2019 to Dec 15, 2019
Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey	May 11, 2019 to Oct 26, 2019
Lake Harris Recreation Site Inventory and Condition Assessment	October 8 and 9, 2019
Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey	February 3, 2020 to April 30, 2020
Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey	February 12, 2020 to March 31, 2020

Note: The Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey had a study period from May 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019. The dates listed reflect the actual date of the first and the last surveys.

2.1.1 Safety Protocols

Throughout each component of the Recreation Evaluation study, appropriate agents[8] followed specified safety protocols. At the beginning of each shift, agents identified any possible hazards for that day and completed the Job Hazard Analysis (JHA). Each JHA was collected and filed digitally.

[8] Recreation Clerks were used to conduct people and vehicle counts and execute user surveys and questionnaires. In addition, there were two Field Supervisors managing field study efforts.

The JHA required examination of each task, the potential hazards involved (such as driving, slipping, insect bites), and the tools and equipment required. The JHA contained a hazard ranking assessment for the severity of each hazard and the probability of the hazard causing injury. The JHA included an outline of steps for each task and the recommended procedures to mitigate accidents. Finally, the JHA identified any job-related concerns, corrective actions, or controls to mitigate concerns, and lists of potential hazards that may be present for each shift.

Table 2-2 Recreation Evaluation Study Component and Approach

Component	Approach	Relevant Appendices and Sections in this Report Where Summarized
Goal 1-Existing Use: Gather baseline information on existing Project recreation facilities and existing Project recreational use and capacity.		
Review existing information on current Project recreation sites and inventory and map (GIS) existing Project recreation sites and access areas within the Project Boundary, including site locations and facilities/amenities.	• Physical inventory of all boat ramps, grills, shelters, restrooms, and parking amenities at each site	• *Lake Harris Recreation Site Inventory and Condition Assessment* (Appendix B) (Section 2.2.1, Section 3.2.1, Section 4.1)
Summarize who owns, operates, and maintains each Project recreation site.	• Communication with Alabama Power Company - Shoreline Management Department • Communication with recreation site staff	• *Lake Harris Recreation Site Inventory and Condition Assessment* (Appendix B) (Section 2.2.1, Section 3.2.1, Section 4.1)
Evaluate the condition of the Harris Project recreation sites and facilities within the Project Boundary, including existing information on the suitability of facilities to provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in recreation activities, where feasible, and public safety features.	• General assessment of site condition to include maintenance, basic rehabilitation, needs, barrier-free facilities, and public safety.	• *Lake Harris Recreation Site Inventory and Condition Assessment* (Appendix B) (Section 2.2.1, Section 3.2.1, Section 4.1)
Estimate the current recreation use and the current and projected use capacity at Harris Project recreation sites.	• Recreational use counts (vehicles and persons) • Parking capacity (number of parking spaces) • Activity counts • Visitation records for Flat Rock Park • Communication with Alabama Power Company - Shoreline Management Department	• *Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires* (Appendix C, Southwick 2020a) (Section 2.2.2, Section 3.2.2, Section 4.1)

Component	Approach	Relevant Appendices and Sections in this Report Where Summarized
Analyze user satisfaction with conditions at existing recreation sites.	• Recreation user feedback (survey questionnaire)	• *Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires* (Appendix C, Southwick 2020a) (Section 2.2.2, Section 3.2.2, Section 4.1)
Summarize use data regarding hunting activity and number of animals harvested in Skyline WMA.	• Use data from ADCNR	• *Man-Days Hunted and Harvest Estimates Used in Alabama Hunting* (Appendix I, ADCNR 2019) (Section 2.2.3, Section 3.2.3, Section 4.1)
Goal 2-Downstream Use: Determine how flows in the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam affect recreational users and their activity.		
Calculate total visitation (effort) and daily effort levels by user groups in the Tallapoosa River Study Area during the study period (May 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019).	• Counts of persons using downstream recreation sites • Counts of vehicles at downstream recreation sites	• *Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey* (Appendix E, Hunt 2020a) (Section 2.3.1, Section 2.3.1.1, Section 2.3.1.2, Section 2.4.2, Section 3.3.1, Section 3.3.1.1, Section 3.3.1.2, Section 4.2)
Measure user attitudes/perceptions about instream flow and trip satisfaction in the Tallapoosa River Study Area on the day they were intercepted during this study period.	• Creel and user surveys at downstream recreation sites	• *Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey* (Appendix E, Hunt 2020a) (Section 2.3.1, Section 2.3.1.1, Section 2.3.1.2, Section 2.4.2, Section 3.3.1, Section 3.3.1.1, Section 3.3.1.2, Section 4.2)

Component	Approach	Relevant Appendices and Sections in this Report Where Summarized
Obtain catch information from anglers intercepted during this period.	• Creel and user surveys at downstream recreation sites	• *Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey* (Appendix E, Hunt 2020a) (Section 2.3.1, Section 2.3.1.1, Section 2.3.1.2, Section 2.4.2, Section 3.3.1, Section 3.3.1.1, Section 3.3.1.2, Section 4.2)
Determine how instream flow affected a) overall effort, b) daily effort for each user, c) perception of instream flow and trip satisfaction by user group, and d) species of fish targeted, caught, and retained.	• Creel and user surveys at downstream recreation sites	• *Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey* (Appendix E, Hunt 2020a) (Section 2.3.1, Section 2.3.1.1, Section 2.3.1.2, Section 2.4.2, Section 3.3.1, Section 3.3.1.1, Section 3.3.1.2, Section 4.2)
Identify residential, vacation, forestry, agricultural, or vacant land adjacent to the Tallapoosa River in Randolph, Chambers, or Tallapoosa counties that could be used for river-related recreation and obtain their mailing address.	• Review county tax records	• *Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey* (Appendix F, Hunt 2020b) (Section 2.3.1.3, Section 3.3.1.3, Section 4.2)
Develop a survey instrument to collect information from downstream landowners on their recreational use of the Tallapoosa River, use by others they may provide access to on their property, landowner perception of instream flow, and their attitudes about recreation and other resource issues on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing.	• Downstream landowner surveys via paper copy or website (SurveyMonkey®)	• *Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey* (Appendix F, Hunt 2020b) (Section 2.3.1.3, Section 3.3.1.3, Section 4.2) • *Tallapoosa River Recreation Surveys Open-Ended Comment Responses* (Appendix G) (Section 3.3.1.3, Section 3.3.1.4)

Component	Approach	Relevant Appendices and Sections in this Report Where Summarized
Send downstream landowners hard copy surveys and letters which provided directions to complete the survey online.	• Downstream landowner surveys via paper copy or website (SurveyMonkey®)	• *Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey* (Appendix F, Hunt 2020b) (Section 2.3.1.3, Section 3.3.1.3, Section 4.2) • *Tallapoosa River Recreation Surveys Open-Ended Comment Responses* (Appendix G) (Section 3.3.1.3, Section 3.3.1.4)
Develop an internet-based survey instrument to collect anonymous information from Tallapoosa River recreationists on their participation in river-related recreation downstream of Harris Dam, and attitudes about various aspects of the Tallapoosa River and water levels.	• Tallapoosa River recreation user surveys (SurveyMonkey®)	• *Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey* (Appendix H, Hunt 2020c) (Section 2.3.1.4, Section 3.3.1.4, Section 4.2) • *Tallapoosa River Recreation Surveys Open-Ended Comment Responses* (Appendix G) (Section 3.3.1.3, Section 3.3.1.4)
Goal 3-Future Needs: Identify future recreational needs relating to public recreation sites on Lake Harris.		
Estimate future recreational use of existing recreation sites.	• Current inventory and data from Objective 1 • Recreation participation and population projections for the region	• *Lake Harris Recreation Site Inventory and Condition Assessment* (Appendix B) (Section 2.2.1, Section 3.2.2, Section 4.1) • *Lake Harris Public Access Questionnaires Zip Code Analysis* (Appendix D, Southwick 2020b) (Section 2.4.2, Section 4.3) • *Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*

Component	Approach	Relevant Appendices and Sections in this Report Where Summarized
		(Section 2.4.2, Section 3.4.1, Section 3.4.2, Section 4.3) • Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (Section 2.4.2, Section 3.4.2, Section 4.3)
Identify potential future needs for new recreation sites and facilities.	• Current inventory and data from Objective 1 • Recreation participation and population projections for the region	• *Lake Harris Recreation Site Inventory and Condition Assessment* (Appendix B) (Section 2.2.1, Section 3.2.1, Section 4.1) • *Lake Harris Public Access Questionnaires Zip Code Analysis* (Appendix D, Southwick 2020b) (Section 2.4.2, Section 4.3) • *Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (Section 2.4.2, Section 3.4.1, Section 3.4.2, Section 4.3) • Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (Section 2.4.2, Section 3.4.2, Section 4.3)
Analyze user input on needs for new recreation sites and facilities.	• Recreation user feedback (survey questionnaire)	• *Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires* (Appendix C, Southwick 2020a) (Section 2.2.2, Section 3.2.2, Section 4.1)

Component	Approach	Relevant Appendices and Sections in this Report Where Summarized
Analyze public input on Tallapoosa River access and facilities.	• Creel and user surveys at downstream recreation sites • Downstream landowner surveys via paper copy or website (SurveyMonkey®) • Tallapoosa River recreation user surveys (SurveyMonkey®)	• *Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey* (Appendix E, Hunt 2020a) (Section 2.3.1, Section 2.3.1.1, Section 2.3.1.2, Section 2.4.2, Section 3.3.1, Section 3.3.1.1, Section 3.3.1.2, Section 4.2) • *Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey* (Appendix F, Hunt 2020b) (Section 2.3.1.3, Section 3.3.1.3, Section 4.2) • *Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey* (Appendix H, Hunt 2020c) (Section 2.3.1.4, Section 3.3.1.4, Section 4.2) • *Tallapoosa River Recreation Surveys Open-Ended Comment Responses* (Appendix G) (Section 3.3.1.3, Section 3.3.1.4)

2.2 Lake Harris Existing Use

2.2.1 Lake Harris Recreation Site Inventory and Condition Assessment

A list of sites that provide public and commercial recreational access to lands and waters of the Harris Project was compiled. A total of 12 Project recreation sites and 2 additional non-project commercial access areas were identified (Figure 1-3).

For each site, data on the types of activities supported, the amenities offered, and parking capacity were obtained from existing Alabama Power records, as well as information from managing entities and site visits. Global positioning system (GPS) coordinates were taken at each location and the general condition of recreational facilities, including the identification of barrier-free facilities, were recorded. Appendix B contains a summary table of the amenities at the Project recreation sites as well as detailed descriptions and figures of each Project recreation site.

2.2.2 Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires

2.2.2.1 Lake Harris Public Access User Counts

Visitor counts occurred at the 12 Harris Project recreation sites, and survey clerks collected information on the number of people observed, the activities in which people were engaged, and the number of vehicles observed. Monitoring at Wedowee Marine South included only use of the public boat launch; other marina activity data were provided by marina staff (Southwick Associates 2020a) (Appendix C).

Recreation Clerks did not monitor each recreation site on the same dates. Rather, Southwick Associates[9] developed a visitor count sample plan, which stratified counts by day type (weekdays, weekends, holidays), resulting in better overall coverage of Lake Harris (Southwick Associates 2020a) (Appendix C). Each month during the study period, Recreation Clerks counted at sites a minimum of six weekdays (9 am to 5 pm) and three weeknights (after 5 pm) at varying times of day and days of the week. Two weekend days and one weekend night were observed each month, and one count was conducted during each holiday weekend (Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day) (Southwick Associates 2020a) (Appendix C).

[9] Southwick Associates, Inc. was hired to assist Kleinschmidt with the Lake Harris public access user counts and questionnaires. Southwick Associates specializes in natural resource economics and business research.

Recreation Clerks were assigned to each recreation site on specific data collection days. Data collection was conducted in three 4-hour shifts between 9 am and 7 pm. Prior to and at the end of each shift, Recreation Clerks counted the number of vehicles observed at the recreation site. Each hour during the shift, Recreation Clerks made a circuit of the site and counted people by the activity in which they were participating. Activities included bank fishing, pier/dock fishing, camping, picnicking, and swimming (Southwick Associates 2020a) (Appendix C).

2.2.2.2 Lake Harris Attendance Records

Where available, attendance records were obtained from managing entities of recreation sites. Alabama Power provided Flat Rock Park monthly attendance records for the 2019 summer season, and Wedowee Marine South provided information on boat slip usage at its facility (Southwick Associates 2020a). These data were incorporated into the *Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires* (Appendix C).

2.2.2.3 Lake Harris Public Access Recreation Site Capacities

Parking capacity was determined, where possible, by counting the number of designated parking spaces available. At sites with non-designated parking areas, capacity was estimated using standards for vehicle length and width, cleared lot size, and optimal parking configurations for non-delineated spaces by curbing for delineated spaces. Parking estimates are approximate and do not account for specific recreation site design standards. Estimates were based on optimal parking configurations (e.g., where site conceptual layouts maximize the use of the space for parking); however, this does not typically occur in non-delineated lots as people parking at these sites use more space between vehicles and park based on convenience rather than a pre-determined layout. This could easily reduce parking space estimates by 30 to 50 percent.

At 10 of the Lake Harris Project recreation sites, Southwick Associates estimated site capacity using daily capacity and estimated daily use[10]. At Flat Rock Park, Southwick Associates treated the fishing pier and day park area as one site and based calculations on the active recreation area. At Wedowee Marine South, only slip rental data were available to be included in the calculation (Southwick Associates 2020a) (Appendix C).

[10] Specific definitions and calculations by recreation amenity types were presented in the Final May 2019 *Recreation Evaluation Study Plan* (Accession Number 20190513-5093).

2.2.2.4 Lake Harris Public Access Questionnaires and User Satisfaction

FERC issued a Study Plan Determination (SPD)[11] on April 12, 2019, which approved Alabama Power's study plans and included FERC staff recommendations. In addition to the Lake Harris Project recreation site counts, FERC staff recommended that Alabama Power perform visitor interviews. Alabama Power developed a questionnaire[12] for Lake Harris Project recreation site users in consultation with Harris Action Team (HAT) 5. The questionnaire consisted of five questions regarding current and future recreation needs at Lake Harris Project recreation sites. Recreation Clerks administered the questionnaires from May 10, 2019 through December 15, 2019, at boat launches and multi-use parks.

The Recreation Clerks collected questionnaires during each assigned site shift, based on the site sampling plan. The majority of questionnaires were collected from May through September, as this time period corresponds to the highest recreation use. Southwick Associates monitored the total number of questionnaires collected throughout the process to ensure sufficient data were collected.

2.2.3 Skyline Wildlife Management Area

Although not a Project recreation site, recreation use at Skyline WMA was characterized based on existing available recreation use data obtained from ADCNR. Alabama hunting reports were used to derive data related to hunting activity and the number of animals harvested (ADCNR 2019). The *Man-Days Hunted and Harvest Estimates Used in Alabama Hunting* (Appendix I) relies on information gathered by the employees of the Skyline WMA.

Any hunting activity for any length of time was considered a man-day of hunting pressure. More than one hunt (by the same hunter) in a single day was still considered one man-day. The data for the Statewide Game Harvest Survey were obtained after hunting season by contacting a sample of hunters who purchased a hunting license. The information

[11] Accession Number 20190412-3000

[12] Visitor interviews associated with the Southwick Associates, *Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires*, are referred to as questionnaires. Visitor interviews associated with Dr. Hunt's reports on downstream recreation use (*Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey, Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey,* and *Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey)* are referred to as surveys.

provided by the hunters was used to develop total man-days used for pursuing a given species and the total harvest for that species (ADCNR 2019) (Appendix I).

2.3 Downstream Use

2.3.1 Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Surveys

Although a separate study component, the same Recreation Clerks who conducted counts and questionnaires at the Harris Project recreation sites, conducted counts and surveys at public access points on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam. At the start of each sampling day, three Recreation Clerks met at a designated starting ramp[13]: one "route Recreation Clerk" to drive the route and conduct vehicle counts and two "stationary Recreation Clerks" to conduct the vehicle counts at the starting ramp and to remain stationary at that ramp for four hours to conduct the surveys of users. The route Recreation Clerk conducted 15-minute vehicle counts at each site except for the designated starting ramp (traveling in a designated direction). After completing vehicle counts at all of the ramps, the route Recreation Clerk returned to the starting ramp to meet the stationary Recreation Clerks and collect the information from the vehicle counts at the starting ramp (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

2.3.1.1 Attendance Records

The river outfitter[14] that provides recreation equipment rentals and shuttling services within the Tallapoosa River Study Area was identified and contacted. The river outfitter provided estimates of seasonal use by Tallapoosa River recreationists and an overall perception of recreation use of the river from the Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

2.3.1.2 Downstream User Surveys

Tallapoosa River users were interviewed after exiting the river (activities involving boating or floating) or on the bank regarding catch and effort, perceptions of instream flow, and trip satisfaction. Those on the bank were also asked about the start and stop time of their activity (if not observable) (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

[13] The ramps were either Wadley, Bibby's Ferry, Germany's Ferry, Horseshoe Bend, or Jaybird Landing.

[14] In this study, "outfitter" refers to a local business that supplies recreation gear and shuttles visitors between recreation sites.

Effort was estimated as the product of the mean trip length, mean party size, and number of trips. Trip length and party size were recorded during the survey. In addition, the number of trips were estimated through counts of vehicles, boat trailers, and party size. Total daily effort for each section of the Tallapoosa River was estimated as the product of recorded trips and trip length (hours) (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

2.3.1.3 Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey

The Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey was implemented to determine how landowners along the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam use the Tallapoosa River for recreation purposes, how instream flow in the Tallapoosa River affects recreation activity, and recreation satisfaction. A landowner was defined as those owning residential, vacation, agricultural, forested, or vacant land beginning at Harris Dam through the Tallapoosa River near Jaybird Landing; 223 landowners were identified. Dr. Hunt[15] distributed a self-administered 17 question survey in both paper and online formats. Dr. Hunt received 100 useable responses. In addition, 58 landowners returned a postcard identifying the acceptability ratings of water levels at their property. The postcards described water levels at the specific time and date the landowners accessed the Tallapoosa River from their property (Hunt 2020b) (Appendix F).

Several tools and methods were used in the evaluation of data, including SAS® Version 9.4 (SAS Institute 2016) or similar tools available in Microsoft Excel®. A linear regression was used to determine if instream flow (cubic feet per second [cfs]) determined by the Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) model affected landowner acceptability (Hunt 2020b) (Appendix F). See the *Downstream Release Alternatives Phase 1 Report* for a full description of the HEC-RAS model and how the model was developed[16].

2.3.1.4 Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey

During consultation on the Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey Research Plan, HAT 5 stakeholders further requested that Alabama Power develop an anonymous internet survey for recreation river users to express opinions regarding their recreation experience on the Tallapoosa River. The goal of this additional study component was to capture

[15] Dr. Kevin Hunt was hired to assist Kleinschmidt regarding recreation use on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam.
[16] Accession Number 20200727-5088

information from recreation users who may not have been intercepted during the 2019 Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey, or the 2020 Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey. Dr. Hunt developed a self-administered internet-based 13-question survey, resulting in 291 responses. Descriptive statistics including frequency distributions and means were computed using SAS® Version 9.4 (SAS Institute 2016) or similar tools available in Microsoft Excel® (Hunt 2020c) (Appendix H).

2.4 Future Use and Recreation Needs

2.4.1 Literature Review

Pertinent planning and informational documents were reviewed and incorporated into primary data collection efforts and study results as appropriate. The reviewed documents included recreation-related comprehensive plans identified by FERC for the state of Alabama (FERC 2019).

2.4.2 Population Projections

Estimates of the population growth of Clay, Cleburne, Jackson, and Randolph counties in Alabama and Carroll County in Georgia were used to extrapolate 2019 estimates of future recreational use to the year 2040. Zip code analysis conducted by Southwick Associates, based on questionnaire results, confirmed that the people from these counties were the most frequent users of recreation activities at Lake Harris (Southwick Associates 2020b) (Appendix D).

Kleinschmidt obtained population projection data for Clay, Cleburne, and Randolph counties in Alabama through 2040 from the *Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (ADECA 2013). Population projection data through 2040 for Carroll County in Georgia were obtained from the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB 2020).

Future site capacity (utilization in 2040) was estimated by taking the minimum and maximum percent change in population and adding to the capacity utilization for each Project recreation site.

The need for additional resources at existing sites and any future recreation sites to accommodate existing and future use is based on information collected in support of this study, including the site inventories, use estimates and projections, site capacities, and

public input (questionnaires and surveys). Consideration was given to site opportunities and constraints, as well as support features such as signage and maintenance.

Population projections were also used to consider future recreation use on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam. As noted in the *Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report,* residents of Tallapoosa and Lee counties in Alabama made the majority of trips (53 percent) to the Tallapoosa River from May through October 2019 (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E). As a result, Kleinschmidt obtained population projection data for Tallapoosa and Lee counties in Alabama through 2040 from the *Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (ADECA 2013).

Future site capacity (utilization in 2040) was estimated by taking the minimum and maximum percent change in population and adding to the overall recreational effort of those using public access points on the Tallapoosa River from May 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019.

3.0 RESULTS

This section summarizes study results for various components of the Harris Recreation Evaluation. Additional, detailed information is presented in Appendices B through I.

3.1 Safety Protocols

There were no safety incidents as a result of any of component of the Harris Recreation Evaluation. All JHA's are on file at Kleinschmidt Associates.

3.2 Lake Harris Existing Use

3.2.1 Lake Harris Recreation Site Inventory and Condition Assessment

There are 12 Project recreation sites within the Project Boundary (Table 1-1) that provide opportunities for recreation on Harris Project lands and waters. Additionally, inventory surveys were completed at Lakeside Marina and Wedowee Marine. These two marinas are within the Lake Harris Study Area and included as part of the inventory analysis, as they contribute to recreation activities on Lake Harris. Of these 14 sites, the majority are considered day-use sites, with only one privately-owned site providing campgrounds and overnight facilities. The majority of the public access sites have paved access and are well-signed. Eleven of the sites are owned and managed by Alabama Power, three are privately managed, with seven being partially managed by ADCNR[17]. Most of the sites are admission free and open year-round. The three privately owned marinas operate on a fee-based system for customers and public users. Among the 12 sites within the Project Boundary, over 50 picnic tables were counted. There are two sites that have designated swimming areas and two sites that have playgrounds. There are over 500 total parking spaces. There are 12 total boat launches among the sites, and 13 sites offer access to a public use fishing or courtesy dock. There are seven on-site restroom facilities; two are newly installed as of fall 2019. One of the sites has a hiking trail.

Detailed inventory results are provided in the *Lake Harris Recreation Site Inventory and Condition Assessment* in Appendix B.

[17] Wedowee Marine South is located entirely on Alabama Power Project recreation land but is managed exclusively by the marina.

3.2.2 Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires

3.2.2.1 Lake Harris Public Access User Counts

The Lake Harris Project recreation sites had a total of 227,358 estimated visitor days. "Highway 48 Bridge and Wedowee Marine South contribute the largest proportions of visitor-days and have the highest percentage of utilization, 84 percent and 79 percent, respectively" (Southwick Associates 2020a) (Appendix C). Flat Rock Park had the third highest number of recreation days in 2019, although it was not open to the public year-round (only open May 26 through September 15) (Southwick Associates 2020a) (Appendix C).

Wedowee Marine South and Highway 48 Bridge had the highest counts for boating activity, with Big Fox Creek and Lonnie White following. For shoreline fishing, the Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier showed significantly higher activity than the other locations, with Big Fox Creek following. Lonnie White had a noteworthy amount of nighttime fishing. All "other activities" were highest at Flat Rock Park, Highway 48 Bridge, and Little Fox Creek. Swimming and picnicking contributed to the highest percentage of "other activities" surveyed at Flat Rock Park. (Southwick Associates 2020a) (Appendix C).

3.2.2.2 Lake Harris Attendance Records

Although Wedowee Marine South is a private facility, it is within the Harris Project Boundary and portions of it are considered a Project recreation site. The sizable annual visitation estimate at this marina is mainly comprised of a large number of boating activities, including slip usage. Due to evidence of low utilization at the public boat ramp at this location, the survey shift was changed from a full shift to an "instant count"[18].

Table 3-1 provides the summary recreation use data, provided by Alabama Power, for Flat Rock Park from 2016 to 2019.

[18] An "instant count" indicates the survey clerks were present at the Harris recreation site for a total of fifteen minutes to record visitor numbers and activity. The instant counts started on May 27, 2019.

Table 3-1 Number of Recreation Users at Flat Rock Park

Dates (weekend only)	2016	2017	2018	2019
May	7754	5012	3599	4931
Memorial Day Weekend	2347	1306	406	2381
June	10345	5419	12377	6848
July	13310	8836	7705	6591
Fourth of July Weekend	1261	1284	1901	1081
August	4324	3233	2982	3138
September	3000	1174	1894	934
Labor Day Weekend	736	520	911	650
TOTAL	**43,077**	**26,784**	**31,755**	**26,554**

Source: Alabama Power Personal Communication

3.2.2.3 Lake Harris Public Access Recreation Site Capacities

Table 3-2 provides the percent capacity utilization for each of the 12 Harris Project recreation sites.

Table 3-2 Percent Capacity Utilization by Site

Site	2019 % Capacity Utilization
Big Fox Creek	33%
Crescent Crest	24%
Flat Rock Park	36%
Foster's Bridge	40%
Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier	65%
Highway 48 Bridge	84%
Lee's Bridge	20%
Little Fox Creek	15%
Lonnie White	29%
Swagg	39%
Wedowee Marine South	79%
R.L. Harris Wildlife Mgmt. Area	47%

Source: Southwick Associates 2020a (Appendix C)

3.2.2.4 Lake Harris Public Access Questionnaires and User Satisfaction

A total of 1,357 questionnaires were collected during the survey period for the 12 Harris Project recreation sites; most were collected at Highway 48 Bridge, Flat Rock Park, and Big Fox Creek [19]. For three quarters of the boat launch visitors, the average ranking was 8.2 out of 10 signifying a general satisfaction across all launch locations and facilities. The Flat Rock Park ranking of 9 out of 10, indicated an overall satisfaction with the location and facilities (Southwick Associates 2020a) (Appendix C).

Sixty-three percent of the recreation user general comments were complimentary about the Harris Project recreation sites, whereas fourteen percent were negative. Many comments expanded upon safety and capacity issues, although most comments cited areas of improvement that Alabama Power has already addressed since the surveys were completed (Southwick Associates 2020a) (Appendix C).

[19] A total of 1,149 (85%) of the surveys were collected at boat launches and the Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier.

3.2.3 Skyline Wildlife Management Area

Results from Appendix I, *Man-Days Hunted and Harvest Estimates Used in Alabama Hunting,* are provided in Table 3-3.

Table 3-3 James D. Martin - Skyline Wildlife Management Area Hunting Data

	2016-2017 Season			2017-2018 Season			2018-2019 Season		
Species	**Estimated Man-Days Hunted**	**Estimated Harvest**	**Known Harvest**	**Estimated Man-Days Hunted**	**Estimated Harvest**	**Known Harvest**	**Estimated Man-Days Hunted**	**Estimated Harvest**	**Known Harvest**
Deer	6270	274		6110	229		8003	225	
Turkey	1865	65	51	1710	60	47	700	75	63
Squirrel	600	700		600	700		580	600	
Quail	30	16		30	16		30	15	
Rabbit	550	825		520	745		500	420	
Dove	120	130		95	97		75	80	
Waterfowl	20	15		0	0		30	30	
Raccoon	200	10		200	10		15	15	
Opossum	0	0		0	0		0	0	
Woodcock	18	6		15	4		0	0	
Snipe	0	0		0	0		0	0	
Fox	0	0		0	0		0	0	
Pig	0	0		0	0		0	0	
Trapping	360	31		0	0		0	0	
Total	**10033**	**2072**	**51**	**9280**	**1861**	**47**	**9933**	**1460**	**63**

Source ADCNR 2019 (Appendix I)

3.3 Downstream Use

3.3.1 Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Surveys

The recreation effort for the Tallapoosa River Study Area (not counting the river outfitter) was 55,885 hours with the majority of recreation trips (two thirds) occurring in May, June, and July of 2019. The average total recreation trip length was 5.04 hours. Combining the overall visitor effort plus the outfitter-attributed effort, the total recreation effort in the Tallapoosa River Study Area for the public access sites during the study period was 57,740 hours. There were 11,469 total person-days of recreation that occurred as part of the 4,360 multi-person trips (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

Data collected during the study period indicated that approximately 70 percent of all Tallapoosa River trips began at Horseshoe Bend, 12.7 percent of trips began at the Germany's Ferry boat launch, and 10.4 percent of trips began at Jaybird Landing (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

Sixty-one percent of all Tallapoosa River trips ended at Jaybird Landing and 24 percent ended at Horseshoe Bend Military Park (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

Boating and fishing recreation activities during the study period consisted of kayaking (33 percent), kayak fishing (27 percent), shoreline fishing (13 percent), boat fishing (14 percent), canoeing (5 percent), and canoe fishing (5 percent), while swimming, tubing, and recreational boating accounted for only approximately 3 percent of trips (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

3.3.1.1 Attendance Records

Based on business records, the river outfitter noted that June was the busiest month, followed by May and July (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

The river outfitter explained that approximately 80 percent of all recreation activities in the Tallapoosa River Study Area occurred from Germany's Ferry to Jaybird Landing (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

The river outfitter provided shuttling and outfitting services for 371 individuals (226 kayak/canoe renters and 145 ferried with his personal vessel). The river outfitter specified that the Tallapoosa River trips he led ranged from 4 to 6 hours with the average total trip

lasting 5 hours. There were 371 visitor-days and 1,855 hours of effort attributed to the river outfitter during the study period, with the majority of the effort occurring in May, June, and July of 2019 (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

3.3.1.2 Downstream User Surveys

Tallapoosa River recreationists were asked to rate the water level over the duration of their entire trip. Over 81 percent of river recreationists rated the water level 'right now' acceptable, and 17.6 percent rated the water level a 10 or very acceptable. Just 5.7 percent of recreationists rated the water level in the unacceptable range (below 5), and 12.8 percent of users gave a neutral rating of 5. No individuals rated the water level as very unacceptable (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

Considering that all average acceptability ratings fell in the optimal flow range, only 25 percent of river users indicated they checked the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gages or contacted Alabama Power regarding the generation schedule before making their trip. River users who did not check the USGS gages or contact Alabama Power for the generation schedule were asked if they would have made their trip knowing the water level beforehand. Over 94 percent of recreationists indicated they would have made the trip regardless (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

When Tallapoosa River recreationists were asked to rate their trip satisfaction, the results indicated that 80 percent rated their trip as 8 to 10 (on a 10-point scale), and 43 percent rated their trip as a 10. The overall average satisfaction rating for Tallapoosa River trips during the study period was 8.5. More access points for recreation on the Tallapoosa River were requested by 78 percent of river recreationists, with 55 percent of "floaters" (boat, canoe, kayak, or tube users) indicating they would like more amenities for float trips. Amenities requested included restrooms, trashcans, and additional resting points (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

Recreational fishing accounted for an estimated 6,471 person-days of recreation participation in 2019. Anglers targeted eight species or species groups during the study period. Specifically, anglers caught 50,851 fish during the study period (an average 7.86 fish per day), released 42,387 fish (an average 6.56 fish per day), and harvested 7,325 fish (an average of 1.13 fish per day) (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

The majority of Tallapoosa River fishing trips recorded during this study targeted centrarchid species (i.e., bass, sunfish, and crappie), and the remaining trips targeted ictalurid species (i.e., catfish). Average catch rates of centrarchid species ranged from 0.6497 to 2.000 fish per hour compared to a catch rate of 0.2420 for ictalurids. Anglers only demonstrated differences in catch rates for one species of fish (Alabama/Spotted bass (*Micropterus henshalli/Micropterus punctulatus*), and there were no demonstrated differences in harvest rates at various water levels for any species (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

3.3.1.3 Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey

Tallapoosa River downstream landowners indicated they owned their property an average of 25.2 years and their properties had multiple primary uses; approximately 66 percent use their land for recreation use. These landowners participated in a variety of recreation activities: swimming (68 percent), shore or wade fishing (68 percent), scenic/wildlife viewing (63 percent), boat fishing (58 percent), and kayaking (53 percent). Dr. Hunt estimated the responding landowners spent 12,421 person-days recreating on the Tallapoosa River during 2019. A majority (87 percent) of Tallapoosa River downstream landowners stated they allowed other people (individuals not living on the property) to participate in river-related recreation from their property. Based on the Tallapoosa River downstream landowner responses, Dr. Hunt estimated 4,750 individuals used private land to access the Tallapoosa River for the purposes of river-related recreation during 2019 (Hunt 2020b) (Appendix F).

Only 45 percent of Tallapoosa River downstream landowners noted that they checked Tallapoosa River USGS gages or Alabama Power generation schedules before participating in their favorite river-related recreation activity from their property. Only 39.8 percent of that group had a time of day they found the water level below Harris Dam most acceptable. Tallapoosa River downstream landowners preferred July (32.6 percent), followed by June (23.9 percent), and May (21.7 percent) (Hunt 2020b) (Appendix F).

When asked about conditions of the Tallapoosa River since Alabama Power changed the Harris Project operations in 2005, most (35 percent) of Tallapoosa River downstream landowners rated river conditions approximately the same, with 25 percent noting they believed Tallapoosa River conditions are worse and 19 percent indicating it is better (Hunt 2020b) (Appendix F).

Finally, Tallapoosa River downstream landowners were asked to agree (a score of 5 indicates strong agreement) or disagree (a score of 1 indicates strong disagreement) with various statements about their experiences on the Tallapoosa River (Hunt 2020b) (Appendix F). Table 3-4 summarizes the statements and their scores.

Table 3-4 Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Experience Summary

Statements	n	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Neutral %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %	Mean Score
I am concerned with bank erosion on my property along the Tallapoosa River	98	7.14	3.06	19.39	24.49	45.92	3.98
Most of the encounters I have with Tallapoosa River recreationists who pass by my property are pleasant ones	98	5.1	2.04	26.53	57.14	9.18	3.63
Most Tallapoosa River recreationists are respectful of my property and property rights	97	5.15	8.25	21.65	57.73	7.22	3.54
I believe the water quality on the Tallapoosa River near my property is good	98	11.22	8.16	20.41	39.80	20.41	3.50
I am concerned with people I do not know accessing my property from the Tallapoosa River	99	5.05	11.11	32.32	32.32	19.19	3.49
I believe the variety and abundance of wildlife populations on the banks of the Tallapoosa River near my property is good	97	10.31	12.37	21.65	46.39	9.28	3.32
I believe the variety and abundance of aquatic organisms in Tallapoosa River near my property is good	97	12.37	15.46	18.56	39.18	14.43	3.27
The overall health of the Tallapoosa River on my property is good	95	15.79	11.58	17.89	44.21	10.53	3.22
I believe there is sufficient public access on the River downstream of the Harris Dam for recreational purposes	99	16.33	17.35	32.65	21.43	12.24	2.96

Source: Hunt 2020b (Appendix F)

All responses to the open-ended survey questions are in the *Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey* in Appendix F. In addition, an analysis of the open-ended responses is in the *Tallapoosa River Recreation Surveys Open-Ended Comment Responses* in Appendix G.

3.3.1.4 Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey

The four most popular activities enjoyed by Tallapoosa River recreation users were swimming (76.29 percent), scenic/wildlife viewing (61.17 percent), kayaking (59.79 percent), and tubing/rafting (52.23 percent). Dr. Hunt estimated respondents spent 14,060 person-days recreating on the Tallapoosa River during 2019. A majority (45 percent) of downstream recreation users indicated they accessed the river from "private property only" (Hunt 2020c) (Appendix H).

Approximately 65 percent of Tallapoosa River recreation users indicated they check the Tallapoosa River USGS gage or Alabama Power generation schedule before participating in their favorite river-related recreation activity and over 81 percent of the downstream recreation users preferred a time between the hours of 8:00 am and 1:00 pm for their favorite recreation activity. In addition, 83 percent of recreation users indicated that the months of May, June, and July were preferable in terms of water level for their favorite recreation activity (Hunt 2020c) (Appendix H).

Finally, Tallapoosa River recreation users were asked to agree (a score of 5 indicates strong agreement) or disagree (a score of 1 indicates strong disagreement) with various statements about their experiences with conditions on the Tallapoosa River (Hunt 2020c) (Appendix H). Table 3-5 below summarizes the statements and their scores.

Table 3-5 Tallapoosa River Recreation User Experience Summary

Statement	n	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Neutral %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %	Mean Score
I am concerned with bank erosion along the Tallapoosa River	291	6.87	8.59	22.34	27.84	34.36	3.74
I believe the water quality on the Tallapoosa River is good	291	7.56	7.22	15.81	54.98	14.43	3.62
I believe the variety and abundance of wildlife populations on the banks of the Tallapoosa River is good	291	6.87	7.22	17.18	60.82	7.9	3.56
I believe the variety and abundance of aquatic organisms in Tallapoosa River is good	291	8.59	10.31	19.24	50.17	11.68	3.46
The overall health of the Tallapoosa River is good	291	9.97	11.00	16.49	51.20	11.34	3.43
I believe there is sufficient public access on the Tallapoosa River downstream of the Harris Dam for recreational purposes	291	21.31	24.74	17.87	29.55	6.53	2.75

Source: Hunt 2020c (Appendix H)

All responses to the open-ended survey questions are in the T*allapoosa River Recreation User Survey* in Appendix G. In addition, an analysis of the open-ended responses is in the *Tallapoosa River Recreation Surveys Open-Ended Comment Responses* in Appendix G.

3.4 Future Use and Recreation Needs

3.4.1 Literature Review

After consulting the December 2019 *FERC List of Comprehensive Plans* for the state of Alabama, information from the following plan is addressed within this report:

- Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. 2008. *Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): 2008-2012*. Montgomery, Alabama.

The *Alabama 2013-2018 SCORP* (ADECA 2013) provides information about the use and demand for outdoor recreation facilities and trails within Alabama and includes the four counties where the Harris Project is located. As part of the 2013 *SCORP*, the ADECA conducted surveys, presentations to conferences and user groups, and one-on-one interviews of recreation providers and stakeholders to identify and define recreation trends, issues, benefits, and effects, as well as recreation needs throughout the state.

According to the statewide ranking reported in the 2013 *SCORP*, the top 10 activities by frequency of participation are walking for pleasure, jogging /running for exercise, gardening, soccer, bicycling, hunting, 4-wheel drive activities, viewing scenery, playground activities, and tennis. Within the region where Lake Harris Project Area is located (SCORP Planning Region 4), the *SCORP* identified the top 10 recreation activities to include:

- walking for pleasure (67.1 percent);
- freshwater beaches (59.7 percent);
- pool swimming (53.9 percent);
- football (45.6 percent);
- visiting historical sites (42.0 percent);
- saltwater beaches (38.3 percent)[20];
- freshwater bank fishing (35.2 percent);
- camping at developed sites (24.7 percent);
- soccer (23.3 percent); and
- all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails (19.4 percent) (ADECA 2013).

The Skyline Project Area lands are located within Planning Region 12[21], and the top recreation activities in this region include:

- walking for pleasure (59.5 percent);
- pool swimming (50.8 percent);

[20] Note that Planning Region 4 does not contain any coastal areas.

[21] Planning Region 12 is within the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments and includes DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, and Marshall counties

- visiting historical sites (42.7 percent);
- freshwater beaches (42.7 percent); and
- saltwater beaches (32.2 percent)[22].

The 2013 *SCORP* also identified recreation needs. Statewide, Alabama residents indicated a need for: additional hiking trails; equestrian trails and facilities; motorized trails and facilities; linear parks, rail trails, and bikeways; parks and park improvements; bicycle trails; bike/pedestrian facilities; and access to public waters.

Within Region 4 where the Lake Harris Project Area is located, the top recreation needs identified included parks, picnic areas, and playgrounds, and within Region 12 where the Skyline Project Lands are located, the top recreation needs identified included playgrounds, walking/jogging trails, and parks (ADECA 2013).

3.4.2 Population Projections

There is a projected decrease in population between 2020 and 2040 in Clay County, Alabama and a projected increase in Cleburne and Randolph counties in Alabama and in Carroll County, Georgia (Table 3-6).

The minimum (-7.5 percent) and maximum (20.8 percent) change in population in these counties surrounding the Harris Project were used to estimate a range of projected recreation days for 2040. The total recreation days for 2040 for the Harris Project recreation sites are projected to range from 210,306 days to 274,648 days (Table 3-7). The minimum (-7.5 percent) and maximum (20.8 percent) change in population was added to the 2019 Project recreation site capacities from the *Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires* to estimate the site capacities in 2040 (Table 3-7).

[22] Note that Planning Region 12 does not contain any saltwater beaches.

Table 3-6 2040 Projected Population

County	2020 Population	2040 Population	Percent Change
Clay (AL)	13,661	12,631	-7.5
Cleburne (AL)	15,634	15,950	2.0
Randolph (AL)	23,405	23,524	0.5
Carroll (GA)	120,119	145,151	20.8

Source: OPB 2020, ADECA 2013

Table 3-7 Recreation Days Projected for 2040

Recreation Site	Recreation Days	Minimum 2040 Projected Recreation Days	Maximum 2040 Projected Recreation Days	Minimum 2040 Projected % Capacity Utilization	Maximum 2040 Projected % Capacity Utilization
Big Fox Creek	18,506	17,118	22,355	26%	54%
Crescent Crest	12,112	11,204	14,631	17%	45%
Flat Rock Park	26,554	24,562	32,077	29%	57%
Foster's Bridge	15,705	14,527	18,972	33%	61%
Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier	8,198	7,583	9,903	58%	86%
Highway 48 Bridge	54,986	50,862	66,423	77%	105%
Lee's Bridge	1,734	1,604	2,095	13%	41%
Little Fox Creek	10,304	9,531	12,447	8%	36%
Lonnie White	16,033	14,831	19,368	22%	50%
Swagg	7,664	7,089	9,258	32%	60%
Wedowee Marine South	55,480	51,319	67,020	72%	100%
R.L. Harris Wildlife Mgmt. Area	82	76	99	40%	68%
Total	**227,358**	**210,306**	**274,648**	N/A	N/A

Source: Southwick Associates 2020a (Appendix C), OPB 2020, ADECA 2013

Regarding river-related recreation, there is a projected decrease in population between 2020 and 2040 in Tallapoosa County, Alabama and a projected increase in Lee County (Table 3-8).

The minimum (-2.0 percent) and maximum (24.2 percent) change in population in these counties were used to estimate a range of projected recreation days for 2040. The total person-days for 2040 for recreation on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam are projected to range from 11, 240 person-days to 14,244 person-days (Table 3-8).

Table 3-8 2040 Projected Recreation Person-Days

County	2019 Person-Days	2040 Person-Days	Percent Change
Lee (AL)	13,661	14,244	24.2
Tallapoosa (AL)	15,634	11,240	-2.0

Source: ADECA 2013, Hunt 2020a

4.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusions-Lake Harris and Skyline Wildlife Management Area

Findings from 2019 at the 12 Project recreation sites around Lake Harris indicate that hundreds of thousands of recreation days were spent on Lake Harris with overall high levels of satisfaction. There were, however, approximately 75 percent of boat launch recreationists who suggested improvements for the various locations. Some recreationists indicated the lighting at the boat launches needed to be addressed (Southwick 2020a) (Appendix C). As of April 2020, Alabama Power noted that all of the recreation sites have working lights with the exception of Lee's Bridge. Other suggestions included restroom improvements (either the addition of restrooms if none were present at the site, ensuring restrooms are accessible, or general maintenance of the facilities) (Southwick 2020a) (Appendix C). Restroom facilities at Highway 48 and the Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier were completed in February 2020. Finally, some recreationists recommended the addition or the maintenance of trash cans (Southwick 2020a) (Appendix C); however, at the majority of Alabama Power's recreation sites, a policy of "carry-in, carry-out" is maintained and no trash cans are provided. Recreationists are asked to come prepared to take their trash with them.

Based on an assessment, Flat Rock Park offers a high degree of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Highway 48 Bridge, Little Fox Creek, and R.L. Harris Management Area are barrier-free.

Southwick Associates noted that "Overall levels of satisfaction with these sites are high but addressing improvements raised has the potential to drive those satisfaction levels higher" (2020a) (Appendix C).

According to Southwick Associates, the Highway 48 Bridge and Wedowee Marine South have the highest percent capacity utilization, 84 percent and 79 percent, respectively.[23]

A variety of public recreation facilities and opportunities are available within an approximate 50-mile radius of Lake Harris, including state parks, campgrounds,

[23] Wedowee Marine South is not solely public access but utilized by customers.

wilderness areas, and state forests. A full description of the recreation opportunities in the area was provided in the *Harris Pre-Application Document* in 2018.

Regarding recreation near Skyline, notable recreation opportunities in addition to hunting in the area (but not located in the Skyline Project Boundary) include the "Walls of Jericho" and a stop on the Alabama Birding Trail.

In addition, ADCNR noted an increase in hunting at all of their WMA's during 2020, associated with COVID-19 safer at home orders. As people had off time from work and some other recreation activities were restricted, hunters spent more time in the woods (ADCNR personal communication).

4.2 Conclusions-Recreation Downstream of Harris Dam

High satisfaction ratings were received from those recreation users using public access points on the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam; however, data indicate that a majority (75 percent) of the recreation users would prefer additional downstream access points and over 50 percent of the recreation users prefer improvements to the amenities at the sites on the Tallapoosa River (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

Regarding water level and recreation on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam, the water level does not appear to have any appreciable effect on recreation. The majority of recreation users found all water levels acceptable (499-6110 cfs), and the recreation effort did not appear to be affected by water level. Most recreation users were not aware of the Tallapoosa River water level until they arrived to recreate; there was no significant relationship between satisfaction and water level (Hunt 2020a) (Appendix E).

Downstream landowners participate in a variety of recreation activities from their property along the Tallapoosa River. There was no identifiable optimal flow range for downstream landowners. However, any flow greater than 5,000 cfs was designated unacceptable for river-related recreation (Hunt 2020b) (Appendix F).

The responses to the Tallapoosa River User Survey represent a broad and diverse range of individuals who were made aware of the survey from various dissemination efforts. Many comments were related to Lake Harris and not the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam. In addition, several downstream landowners completed both this survey and the

Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey. This made it difficult to reach meaningful conclusions because of the "noise" in the data (Hunt 2020c) (Appendix H).

4.3 Future Use and Recreation Needs

The total recreation days for the Harris Project recreation sites are projected for 2040 to range from 210,306 days to 274,648 days. In 2040, the Highway 48 Bridge and Wedowee Marine South sites may be near or over capacity (Table 3-7). The total person-days for 2040 for recreation on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam are projected to range from 11, 240 person-days to 14,244 person-days (Table 3-8).

As noted in the *Harris Project Recreation Evaluation Study Plan*, Alabama Power will consult with HAT 5 members to review the recreation facility needs and use data and assess potential development of additional recreation sites and upgrades to existing sites at the Harris Project, including the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam. Alabama Power will present the proposal for any recreation upgrades and new sites, developed in consultation with HAT 5, in the Preliminary Licensing Proposal. After a new license is issued for the Harris Project, Alabama Power will develop a Recreation Management Plan, to guide recreation decision making over the course of the license and that plan will be filed with FERC for approval.

While not a stated goal of the final *Harris Project Recreation Evaluation Study Plan*, Alabama Power noted that effects on recreation from potential changes in operations will be analyzed in the *Harris Project Operating Curve Change Feasibility Study Plan* and *Downstream Release Alternatives Study Plan*. As part of the analysis, Alabama Power is using aerial imagery and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) contours to determine the reservoir elevation at which private boat docks and public boat ramps are usable or unusable. A full discussion of the methods and results will be presented in Phase 2 of the *Harris Project Operating Curve Change Feasibility Analysis Study Report* available in April 2021.

5.0 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A

A&I	Agricultural and Industrial
ACFWRU	Alabama Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
ACF	Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (River Basin)
ACT	Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (River Basin)
ADCNR	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
ADECA	Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
ADEM	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
ADROP	Alabama-ACT Drought Response Operations Plan
AHC	Alabama Historical Commission
Alabama Power	Alabama Power Company
AMP	Adaptive Management Plan
ALNHP	Alabama Natural Heritage Program
APE	Area of Potential Effects
ARA	Alabama Rivers Alliance
ASSF	Alabama State Site File
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
AWIC	Alabama Water Improvement Commission
AWW	Alabama Water Watch

B

BA	Biological Assessment
B.A.S.S.	Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society
BCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BLM	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand

C

°C	Degrees Celsius or Centrigrade
CEII	Critical Energy Infrastructure Information
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
cfs	Cubic Feet per Second
cfu	Colony Forming Unit
CLEAR	Community Livability for the East Alabama Region
CPUE	Catch-per-unit-effort
CWA	Clean Water Act

D

DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DIL	Drought Intensity Level
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
dsf	day-second-feet

E

EAP	Emergency Action Plan
ECOS	Environmental Conservation Online System
EFDC	Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act

F

°F	Degrees Fahrenheit
ft	Feet
F&W	Fish and Wildlife
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FNU	Formazin Nephelometric Unit
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FPA	Federal Power Act

G

GCN	Greatest Conservation Need
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite System
GPS	Global Positioning Systems
GSA	Geological Survey of Alabama

H

Harris Project	R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project
HAT	Harris Action Team
HEC	Hydrologic Engineering Center
HEC-DSSVue	HEC-Data Storage System and Viewer
HEC-FFA	HEC-Flood Frequency Analysis
HEC-RAS	HEC-River Analysis System
HEC-ResSim	HEC-Reservoir System Simulation Model
HEC-SSP	HEC-Statistical Software Package

HDSS	High Definition Stream Survey
hp	Horsepower
HPMP	Historic Properties Management Plan
HPUE	Harvest-per-unit-effort
HSB	Horseshoe Bend National Military Park

I

IBI	Index of Biological Integrity
IDP	Inadvertent Discovery Plan
IIC	Intercompany Interchange Contract
IVM	Integrated Vegetation Management
ILP	Integrated Licensing Process
IPaC	Information Planning and Conservation
ISR	Initial Study Report

J

JTU	Jackson Turbidity Units

K

kV	Kilovolt
kva	Kilovolt-amp
kHz	Kilohertz

L

LIDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LWF	Limited Warm-water Fishery
LWPOA	Lake Wedowee Property Owners' Association

M

m	Meter
m^3	Cubic Meter
M&I	Municipal and Industrial
mg/L	Milligrams per liter
ml	Milliliter
mgd	Million Gallons per Day
µg/L	Microgram per liter
µs/cm	Microsiemens per centimeter
mi^2	Square Miles
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

MPN	Most Probable Number
MRLC	Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics
msl	Mean Sea Level
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt Hour

N

n	Number of Samples
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory

O

OAR	Office of Archaeological Resources
OAW	Outstanding Alabama Water
ORV	Off-road Vehicle
OWR	Office of Water Resources

P

PA	Programmatic Agreement
PAD	Pre-Application Document
PDF	Portable Document Format
pH	Potential of Hydrogen
PID	Preliminary Information Document
PLP	Preliminary Licensing Proposal
Project	R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project
PUB	Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom
PURPA	Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act
PWC	Personal Watercraft
PWS	Public Water Supply

Q

QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control

R

RM	River Mile
RTE	Rare, Threatened and Endangered
RV	Recreational Vehicle

S

S	Swimming
SCORP	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SCP	Shoreline Compliance Program
SD1	Scoping Document 1
SH	Shellfish Harvesting
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
Skyline WMA	James D. Martin-Skyline Wildlife Management Area
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
SU	Standard Units

T

T&E	Threatened and Endangered
TCP	Traditional Cultural Properties
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TRB	Tallapoosa River Basin
TSI	Trophic State Index
TSS	Total Suspended Soils
TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority

U

USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

W

WCM	Water Control Manual
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WMP	Wildlife Management Plan
WQC	Water Quality Certification

APPENDIX B

LAKE HARRIS RECREATION SITE INVENTORY AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Lake Harris Recreation Site Inventory and Condition Assessment

Appendix B

R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project

FERC No. 2628



Prepared for:

Alabama Power Company

Prepared by:

Kleinschmidt Associates

November 2020

Table B-1 Recreation Site Inventory Summary

Site	Barrier-Free Parking	Bank Fishing	Boat Launch	Campground	Fishing Pier	Launching Pier	Restrooms	Pavilion	Store
Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp			X			X			
Crescent Crest Boat Ramp	X		X			X			
Flat Rock Park	X				X		X	X	
Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp			X			X			
Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp	X		X			X	X		
Lakeside Marina		X	X			X	X		X
Lakeside Marina Campground				X					
Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp			X			X			
Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp	X		X			X			
Lonnie White Boat Ramp[1]			X			X			
Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier	X				X		X		
Swagg Boat Ramp			X			X			
Wedowee Marine			X			X	X		X
Wedowee Marine South	X	X	X			X	X		X
R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area								X[2]	

[1] The ADCNR extended and renovated Lonnie White Boat Ramp starting in February 2020.

[2] The R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area has four "shooting houses" on site. These are used primarily for hunting and are covered structures.

Table B-2 Recreation Site Inventory Summary

Site	Management	Ownership
Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp	Alabama Power/ ADCNR	Alabama Power
Crescent Crest Boat Ramp	Alabama Power	Alabama Power
Flat Rock Park	Alabama Power	Alabama Power
Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp	Alabama Power/ ADCNR	Alabama Power
Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp	Alabama Power/ ADCNR	Alabama Power
Lakeside Marina	Private	Private
Lakeside Campground	Private	Private
Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp	Alabama Power	Alabama Power
Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp	Alabama Power/ ADCNR	Alabama Power
Lonnie White Boat Ramp	Alabama Power/ ADCNR	Alabama Power
Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier	Alabama Power	Alabama Power
Swagg Boat Ramp	Alabama Power/ ADCNR	Alabama Power
Wedowee Marine	Private	Private
Wedowee Marine South	Private	Alabama Power/Wedowee Marine
R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area	Alabama Power/ ADCNR	Alabama Power

Table B-3 Recreation Site Inventory Summary

Site Name	Benches	Boat Fuel	Concession	Designated Swim Area	Grill	Marina
Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp						
Crescent Crest Boat Ramp						
Flat Rock Park	X			X	X	
Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp						
Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp						
Lakeside Marina	X	X	X	X	X	X[3]
Lakeside Marina Campground						
Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp						
Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp						
Lonnie White Boat Ramp						
Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier	X					
Swagg Boat Ramp						
Wedowee Marine		X	X			X
Wedowee Marine South		X	X	X	X	X[4]
R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area						

[3] There is a $5 launching fee for general public use.
[4] There is a $5 launching fee for general public use.

Table B-4 Recreation Site Inventory Summary

Site Name	Picnic Table	Playground	Potable Water	Shower	Trail	Trash Can
Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp						
Crescent Crest Boat Ramp						
Flat Rock Park	X	X	X		X	X
Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp						
Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp						
Lakeside Marina	X	X	X	X		X
Lakeside Marina Campground						
Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp						
Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp						
Lonnie White Boat Ramp						
Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier						
Swagg Boat Ramp						
Wedowee Marine	X					
Wedowee Marine South	X	X				X[5]
R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area						

[5] Trashcans are inside the marina, for customer use.

BIG FOX CREEK BOAT RAMP[6]



Big Fox Creek is an unmanned, day-use, public-access recreation site for Lake Harris, located on County Rd 895, in Lineville, AL. Managed by Alabama Power Company, and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, site access is free and open year-round.

Inventory Summary: Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp			
Access	Public	**Facility Type**	Day-use
Parking	Paved	**Single Vehicle Spaces**	0
Trailer Spaces	26	**Barrier-Free Spaces**	0
Open	Year-round	**Fees**	No
Staffed	No		
Amenity		**Amenity**	
Picnic Tables	0	**Potable Water**	0
Grills	0	**Boat Fuel**	0
Showers	0	**Trash Cans**	0
Concessions	0	**Docks**	2- Launching Pier
Trails	0	**Playground**	0
Store	0	**Marina**	0
Boat Launch	1	**Surface for Launch**	Hard surface-paved
Number of Lanes	2	**Boat Prep Area**	0
Swim Area	0	**Pavilion**	0

[6] Some inventory parking and amenities numbers were adjusted in July 2020 to reflect recent upgrades to sites.

CRESCENT CREST BOAT RAMP



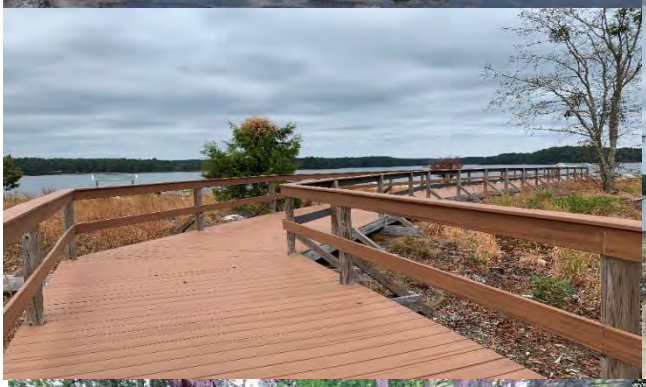


Crescent Crest is an unmanned, day-use, public-access recreation site, located on Crescent Crest Drive, in Wedowee, AL. Managed by Alabama Power Company, the site access is free and open year-round.

Inventory Summary: Crescent Crest Boat Ramp			
Access	Public	**Facility Type**	Day-use
Parking	Paved	**Single Vehicle Spaces**	5
Trailer Spaces	8	**Barrier-Free Spaces**	1
Open	Year-round	**Fees**	No
Staffed	No		
Amenity		**Amenity**	
Picnic Tables	0	**Potable Water**	0
Grills	0	**Boat Fuel**	0
Showers	0	**Trash Cans**	0
Concessions	0	**Docks**	1-Launching Pier
Trails	0	**Playground**	0
Store	0	**Marina**	0
Boat Launch	1	**Surface for Launch**	Hard surface-paved
Number of Lanes	2	**Boat Prep Area**	0
Swim Area	0	**Pavilion**	0

FLAT ROCK PARK









Flat Rock Park is a manned, day-use, public-access recreation site with a fishing pier located on County Road 870 in Lineville AL. Owned and managed by Alabama Power Company, the site access is free and open from May through September.

Inventory Summary: Flat Rock Park			
Access	Public	**Facility Type**	Day-use
Parking	Paved/ Uneven terrain	**Single Vehicle Spaces**[7]	189
Trailer Spaces	0	**Barrier-Free Spaces**	7
Open	Seasonally	**Fees**	No
Staffed	Yes		
Amenity		**Amenity**	
Picnic Tables	54	**Potable Water**	Yes
Grills	43	**Boat Fuel**	0
Restrooms	1	**Trash Cans**	47
Concessions	0	**Docks**	1-Fishing Pier
Trails	1	**Playground**	1
Store	0	**Marina**	0
Boat Launch	0	**Surface for Launch**	N/A
Number of Lanes	0	**Boat Prep Area**	0
Swim Area	Yes	**Pavilion**	42

[7] Some parking spaces based on estimation.

FOSTER'S BRIDGE BOAT RAMP



Foster's Bridge is an unmanned, day-use, public-access recreation site located on County Road 82, in Lineville, AL. Managed by Alabama Power Company and Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, site access is free and open year-round.

Inventory Summary: Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp			
Access	Public	**Facility Type**	Day-use
Parking	Paved	**Single Vehicle Spaces**	0
Trailer Spaces	18	**Barrier-Free Spaces**	0
Open	Year-round	**Fees**	No
Staffed	No		
Amenity		**Amenity**	
Picnic Tables	0	**Potable Water**	0
Grills	0	**Boat Fuel**	0
Restrooms	0	**Trash Cans**	0
Concessions	0	**Docks**	2-Launching Pier
Trails	0	**Playground**	0
Store	0	**Marina**	0
Boat Launch	1	**Surface for Launch**	Hard surface-paved
Number of Lanes	2	**Boat Prep Area**	0
Swim Area	No	**Pavilion**	0

HIGHWAY 48 BRIDGE BOAT RAMP



Highway 48 Bridge is an unmanned, day-use, public-access recreation site located on AL Highway 48, in Lineville, AL. Managed by Alabama Power Company and Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, it is free and open year-round. New restroom facilities were installed in late 2019 and are now open for public use.

Inventory Summary: Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp			
Access	Public	**Facility Type**	Day-use
Parking	Paved	**Single Vehicle Spaces**	0
Trailer Spaces	27	**Barrier-Free Spaces**	3
Open	Year-round	**Fees**	No
Staffed	No		
Amenity		**Amenity**	
Picnic Tables	0	**Potable Water**	0
Grills	0	**Boat Fuel**	0
Restrooms	1	**Trash Cans**	0
Concessions	0	**Docks**	2-Launching Pier
Trails	0	**Playground**	0
Store	0	**Marina**	0
Boat Launch	1	**Surface for Launch**	Hard surface-paved
Number of Lanes	2	**Boat Prep Area**	0
Swim Area	No	**Pavilion**	0

LEE'S BRIDGE BOAT RAMP



Lee's Bridge is an unmanned, day-use, public-access recreation site located on AL County Road 88 in Delta, AL. Owned and managed by Alabama Power Company, site access is free and open year-round.

Inventory Summary: Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp			
Access	Public	**Facility Type**	Day-use
Parking	Paved	**Single Vehicle Spaces**	0
Trailer Spaces	4	**Barrier-Free Spaces**	0
Open	Year-round	**Fees**	No
Staffed	No		
Amenity		**Amenity**	
Picnic Tables	0	**Potable Water**	0
Grills	0	**Boat Fuel**	0
Restrooms	0	**Trash Cans**	0
Concessions	0	**Docks**	1-Launching Pier
Trails	0	**Playground**	0
Store	0	**Marina**	0
Boat Launch	1	**Surface for Launch**	Hard surface-paved
Number of Lanes	1	**Boat Prep Area**	0
Swim Area	No	**Pavilion**	0

LITTLE FOX CREEK BOAT RAMP



Little Fox Creek is an unmanned, day-use, public-access recreation site located AL County 863 in Lineville, AL. Managed by Alabama Power Company and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, site access is free and open year-round.

Inventory Summary: Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp			
Access	Public	**Facility Type**	Day-use
Parking	Paved	**Single Vehicle Spaces**	0
Trailer Spaces	20	**Barrier-Free Spaces**	2
Open	Year-round	**Fees**	No
Staffed	No		
Amenity		**Amenity**	
Picnic Tables	0	**Potable Water**	0
Grills	0	**Boat Fuel**	0
Restrooms	0	**Trash Cans**	0
Concessions	0	**Docks**	1-Launching Pier
Trails	0	**Playground**	0
Store	0	**Marina**	0
Boat Launch	1	**Surface for Launch**	Hard surface-paved
Number of Lanes	2	**Boat Prep Area**	0
Swim Area	No	**Pavilion**	0

LONNIE WHITE BOAT RAMP




Lonnie White Boat Ramp is an unmanned, day-use, public-access recreation site located on AL County Road 129 in Wedowee, AL. Managed by Alabama Power Company and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, this site is free and open year-round.

Inventory Summary: Lonnie White Boat Ramp			
Access	Public	**Facility Type**	Day-use
Parking	Paved	**Single Vehicle Spaces**	0
Trailer Spaces	21	**Barrier-Free Spaces**	0
Open	Year-round	**Fees**	No
Staffed	No		
Amenity		**Amenity**	
Picnic Tables	0	**Potable Water**	0
Grills	0	**Boat Fuel**	0
Showers	0	**Trash Cans**	0
Concessions	0	**Docks**	1-Launching Pier
Trails	0	**Playground**	0
Store	0	**Marina**	0
Boat Launch	1	**Surface for Launch**	Hard surface-paved
Number of Lanes	2	**Boat Prep Area**	0
Swim Area	No	**Pavilion**	0

HARRIS TAILRACE FISHING PIER



Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier is an unmanned, day-use, public-access recreation site located on AL County Road 100 in Lineville, AL Owned and managed by Alabama Power Company, this site is free and open year-round. New restroom facilities were installed in late 2019 and are now open for public use.

Inventory Summary: Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier			
Access	Public	**Facility Type**	Day-use
Parking	Paved	**Single Vehicle Spaces**	8
Trailer Spaces	0	**Barrier-Free Spaces**	2
Open	Year-round	**Fees**	No
Staffed	No		
Amenity		**Amenity**	
Picnic Tables	0	**Potable Water**	0
Grills	0	**Boat Fuel**	0
Restrooms	1	**Trash Cans**	0
Concessions	0	**Dock**	0
Trails	0	**Playground**	0
Store	0	**Marina**	0
Boat Launch	0	**Surface for Launch**	N/A
Number of Lanes	0	**Boat Prep Area**	0
Swim Area	No	**Pavilion**	0

SWAGG BOAT RAMP





Swagg boat ramp is an unmanned, day-use, public-access recreation site located on AL County Road 329 in Wedowee, AL. Managed by Alabama Power Company and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, this site is free and open year-round.

Inventory Summary: Swagg Boat Ramp			
Access	Public	**Facility Type**	Day-use
Parking	Paved	**Single Vehicle Spaces**[8]	4
Trailer Spaces	4	**Barrier-Free Spaces**	0
Open	Year-round	**Fees**	No
Staffed	No		
Amenity		**Amenity**	
Picnic Tables	0	**Potable Water**	0
Grills	0	**Boat Fuel**	0
Showers	0	**Trash Cans**	0
Concessions	0	**Docks**	1-Launching Pier
Trails	0	**Playground**	0
Store	0	**Marina**	0
Boat Launch	1	**Surface for Launch**	Hard surface-paved
Number of Lanes	2	**Boat Prep Area**	0
Swim Area	No	**Pavilion**	0

[8] Some parking spaces based on estimation.

WEDOWEE MARINE SOUTH[9]





Wedowee Marine South is a manned, day-use marina located on AL Highway 48 in Lineville, AL. Managed by a private owner, this boat ramp requires a $5 launch fee, but is open year-round. A playground, bank fishing, and swimming area are also available for public use at this site. Wedowee Marine South is closed on Sundays during the winter season.

Inventory Summary: Wedowee Marine South			
Access	Private	**Facility Type**	Day-use
Parking	Paved	**Single Vehicle Spaces**[10]	51
Trailer Spaces	60	**Barrier-Free Spaces**	4
Open	Year-round	**Fees**	$5 fee for boat launch
Staffed	Yes		
Amenity		**Amenity**	
Picnic Tables	2	**Potable Water**	0
Grills	1	**Boat Fuel**	4 (customer use)
Restrooms	2	**Trash Cans**	0
Concessions	1 (restaurant inside store)	**Docks**	1-Launching Pier and 1-Swim Pier
Trails	0	**Playground**	1
Store	1	**Marina**	1
Boat Launch	2[11]	**Surface for Launch**	Hard surface-paved
Number of Lanes	2	**Boat Prep Area**	0
Swim Area	Yes (60-foot long)	**Pavilion**	0

[9] Wedowee Marine South is a Harris Project site. Lakeside Marina and Wedowee Marine* are not project sites, but within the Harris Project Boundary.

[10] There is a day- use area with additional 17 vehicle spaces and 1 barrier-free space.

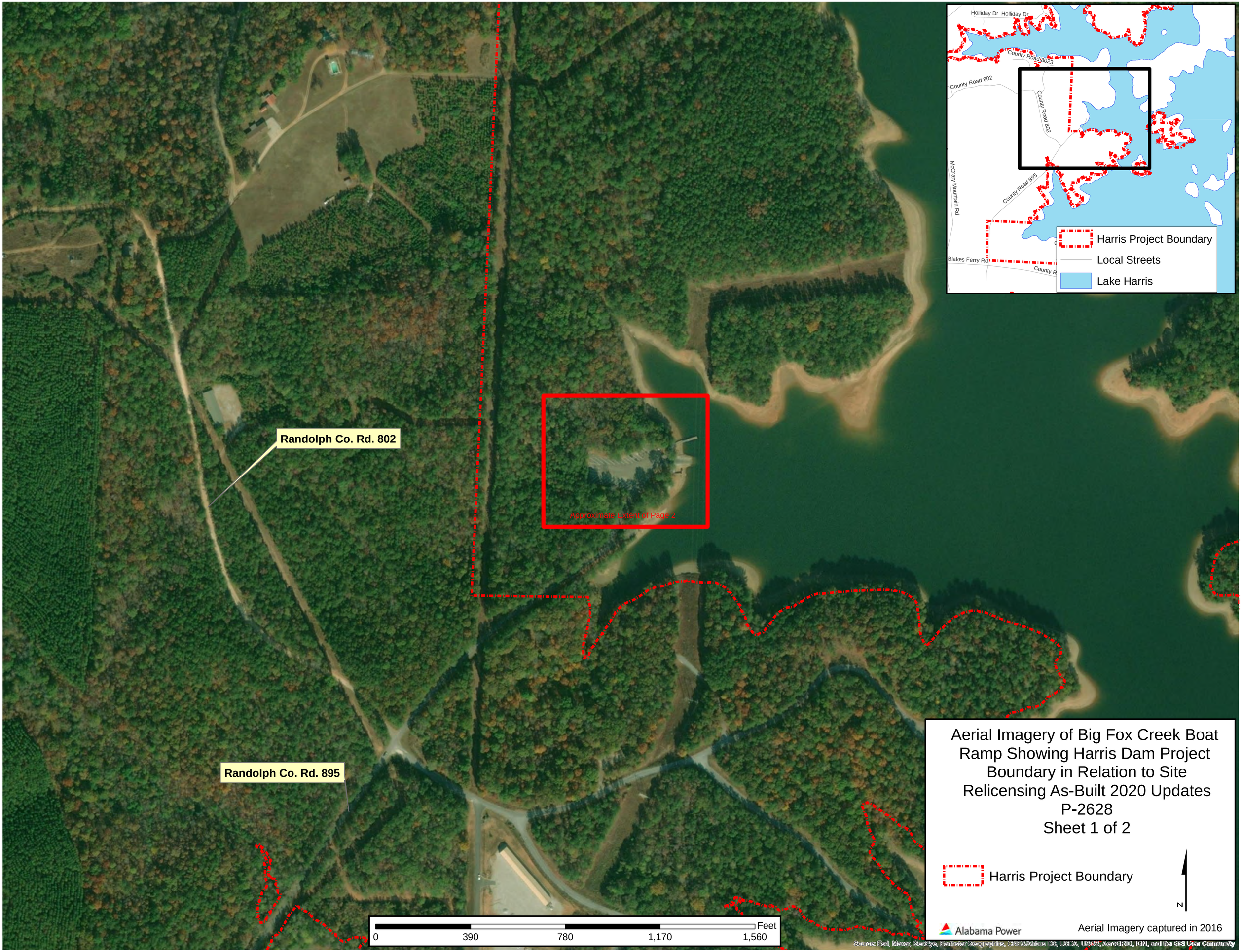
[11] There is an additional boat launch that is not available for the public and for Wedowee Marine South use only.

R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area



The R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area is an unmanned, day-use, reservation-only hunting property located on R.L. Harris dam road in Lineville, AL. Managed by Alabama Power Company and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, this site is available and open February through October (Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday). This site provides hunting for people with physical disabilities.

Inventory Summary: R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area			
Access	Public (with reservation)	**Facility Type**	Day-use
Parking	Gravel	**Single Vehicle Spaces**	0
Trailer Spaces	0	**Barrier-Free Spaces**	0
Open	Seasonal	**Fees**	No
Staffed	No		
Amenity		**Amenity**	
Picnic Tables	0	**Potable Water**	0
Grills	0	**Boat Fuel**	0
Showers	0	**Trash Cans**	0
Concessions	0	**Docks**	0
Trails	0	**Playground**	0
Store	0	**Marina**	0
Boat Launch	0	**Surface for Launch**	N/A
Number of Lanes	0	**Boat Prep Area**	0
Swim Area	0	**Pavilion**	0



Aerial Imagery of Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp Showing Harris Dam Project Boundary in Relation to Site Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates P-2628

Sheet 1 of 2

Aerial Imagery of Big Fox Creek
Boat Ramp Relicensing
As-Built 2020
P-2628
Updates Sheet 2 of 2

N

Alabama Power Aerial Imagery captured in 2017

2 LAUNCHING PIERS

2 LANE BOAT LAUNCH

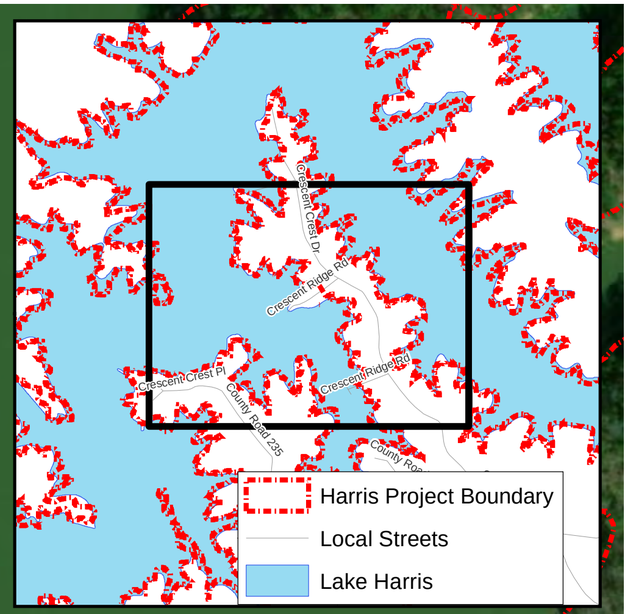
26 TRAILER PARKING SPACES

~ 26 trailer parking spaces; 2 lane boat launch; 2 launching piers

RANDOLPH CO. RD. 240

RANDOLPH CO. RD. 235

MAP EXTENT OF PAGE 2



Feet
0 475 950 1,425 1,900

Aerial Imagery of Crescent Crest Boat Ramp Showing Harris Dam Project Boundary in Relation to Site Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates P-2628

Sheet 1 of 2

Harris Project Boundary

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2016

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Aerial Imagery of Crescent Crest Boat Ramp
Relicensing As-Built 2020
P-2628
Updates Sheet 2 of 2

N

Alabama Power Aerial Imagery captured in 2020



LAUNCHING PIER

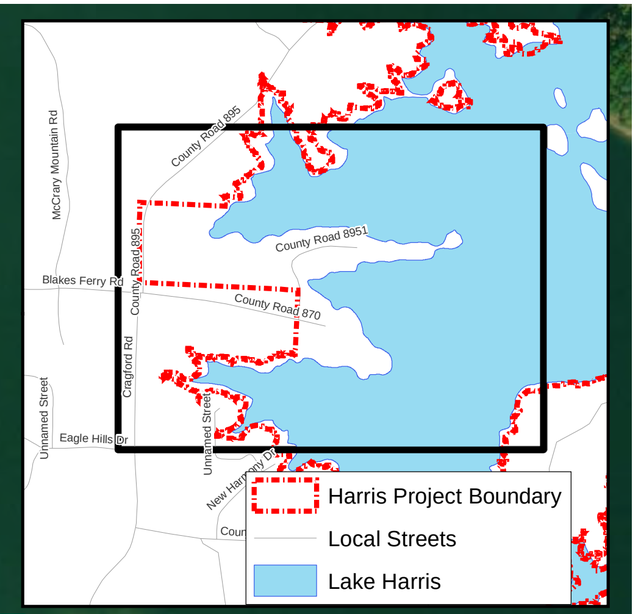
5 SINGLE PARKING SPACES

8 TRAILER PARKING SPACES

1 BARRIER-FREE TRAILER PARKING SPACE

2 LANE BOAT LAUNCH

~8 trailer parking spaces and 1 barrier-free trailer parking space; 5 single parking spaces; 2 lane boat launch, 1 launching pier



Approximate Extent of Page 5

Approximate Extent of Page 4

Approximate Extent of Page 3

Approximate Extent of Page 2

Randolph Co. Rd. 870

CRAGFORD RD.

Approximate Extent of Page 6

Approximate Extent of Page 7 and Coverage of Flat Rock Nature Trail

0 630 1,260 1,890 2,520 Feet

Aerial Imagery of Flat Rock Park Showing Harris Dam Project Boundary in Relation to Site Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates P-2628 Sheet 1 of 7

Harris Project Boundary

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2016

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Aerial Imagery of Flat Rock Park
Relicensing As-Built 2020
P-2628
Updates Sheet 2 of 7

N

Alabama Power Aerial Imagery captured in 2020

SWIM AREA

PARKING AREA

SWIM AREA



SWIM AREA

SWIM AREA

Amenities listed below are for entire site and may not be on each sheet:
~189 single parking spaces and 7 barrier-free parking spaces; 42 pavilions (39 single/3 group) with picnic tables; 1 individual picnic table and 2 individual barrier-free picnic tables; Barrier-free interpretive area; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to 2 individual barrier-free picnic tables and barrier-free interpretive area; 2 group pavilions with 4 tables and 1 barrier-free group pavilion with 4 tables; Barrier-free path from 1 barrier-free parking space to 1 barrier-free group pavilion; Barrier-free playground;
Barrier-free restroom; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to barrier-free restroom and barrier-free playground; Barrier-free fishing pier; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to barrier-free fishing pier; Swim area; Elevated boardwalk; ~1 mile nature trail with interpretive signage, 1 gazebo, 3 benches, and 2 trail map kiosks.

Aerial Imagery of Flat Rock Park
Relicensing As-Built 2020
P-2628
Updates Sheet 3 of 7

N

Alabama Power Aerial Imagery captured in 2020

SWIM AREA

PARKING AREA

PARKING AREA

ELEVATED BOARDWALK

INDIVIDUAL PAVILIONS

SWIM AREA

Amenities listed below are for entire site and may not be on each sheet:
~189 single parking spaces and 7 barrier-free parking spaces; 42 pavilions (39 single/3 group) with picnic tables; 1 individual picnic table and 2 individual barrier-free picnic tables; Barrier-free interpretive area; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to 2 individual barrier-free picnic tables and barrier-free interpretive area; 2 group pavilions with 4 tables and 1 barrier-free group pavilion with 4 tables; Barrier-free path from 1 barrier-free parking space to 1 barrier-free group pavilion; Barrier-free playground; Barrier-free restroom; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to barrier-free restroom and barrier-free playground; Barrier-free fishing pier; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to barrier-free fishing pier; Swim area; Elevated boardwalk; ~1 mile nature trail with interpretive signage, 1 gazebo, 3 benches, and 2 trail map kiosks.

Aerial Imagery of Flat Rock Park
Relicensing As-Built 2020
P-2628
Updates Sheet 4 of 7

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2020

SWIM AREA

SWIM AREA

INDIVIDUAL PAVILIONS



PARKING AREA

PARKING AREA

PARKING AREA

PARKING AREA



Amenities listed below are for entire site and may not be on each sheet:
~189 single parking spaces and 7 barrier-free parking spaces; 42 pavilions (39 single/3 group) with picnic tables; 1 individual picnic table and 2 individual barrier-free picnic tables; Barrier-free interpretive area; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to 2 individual barrier-free picnic tables and barrier-free interpretive area; 2 group pavilions with 4 tables and 1 barrier-free group pavilion with 4 tables; Barrier-free path from 1 barrier-free parking space to 1 barrier-free group pavilion; Barrier-free playground; Barrier-free restroom; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to barrier-free restroom and barrier-free playground; Barrier-free fishing pier; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to barrier-free fishing pier; Swim area; Elevated boardwalk; ~1 mile nature trail with interpretive signage, 1 gazebo, 3 benches, and 2 trail map kiosks.

Aerial Imagery of Flat Rock Park
Relicensing As-Built 2020
P-2628
Updates Sheet 5 of 7

N

Alabama Power Aerial Imagery captured in 2020



INDIVIDUAL PAVILIONS

GROUP PAVILION

PARKING AREA

2 BARRIER-FREE SINGLE VEHICLE SPACES



PARKING AREA

PARK ATTENDANT OFFICE

PARKING AREA





BARRIER-FREE PATH TO BARRIER-FREE RESTROOM AND BARRIER-FREE PLAYGROUND

TRAIL MAP KIOSK

NATURE TRAIL

Amenities listed below are for entire site and may not be on each sheet:
~189 single parking spaces and 7 barrier-free parking spaces; 42 pavilions (39 single/3 group) with picnic tables; 1 individual picnic table and 2 individual barrier-free picnic tables; Barrier-free interpretive area; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to 2 individual barrier-free picnic tables and barrier-free interpretive area; 2 group pavilions with 4 tables and 1 barrier-free group pavilion with 4 tables; Barrier-free path from 1 barrier-free parking space to 1 barrier-free group pavilion; Barrier-free playground; Barrier-free restroom; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to barrier-free restroom and barrier-free playground; Barrier-free fishing pier; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to barrier-free fishing pier; Swim area; Elevated boardwalk; ~1 mile nature trail with interpretive signage, 1 gazebo, 3 benches, and 2 trail map kiosks.

Aerial Imagery of Flat Rock Park
Relicensing As-Built 2020
P-2628
Updates Sheet 6 of 7

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2020

NATURE TRAIL

PARKING AREA

BARRIER-FREE FISHING PIER



2 BARRIER-FREE SINGLE VEHICLE SPACES WITH BARRIER-FREE PATH TO BARRIER-FREE FISHING PIER

Amenities listed below are for entire site and may not be on each sheet:
~189 single parking spaces and 7 barrier-free parking spaces; 42 pavilions (39 single/3 group) with picnic tables; 1 individual picnic table and 2 individual barrier-free picnic tables; Barrier-free interpretive area; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to 2 individual barrier-free picnic tables and barrier-free interpretive area; 2 group pavilions with 4 tables and 1 barrier-free group pavilion with 4 tables; Barrier-free path from 1 barrier-free parking space to 1 barrier-free group pavilion; Barrier-free playground; Barrier-free restroom; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to barrier-free restroom and barrier-free playground; Barrier-free fishing pier; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to barrier-free fishing pier; Swim area; Elevated boardwalk; ~1 mile nature trail with interpretive signage, 1 gazebo, 3 benches, and 2 trail map kiosks.

Imagery of Flat Rock Park Nature Trail Relicensing As-Built 2020
P-2628
Updates Sheet 7 of 7

N

Alabama Power

FLAT ROCK

You are here

Pavilions

Benches

R. L. Harris Reservoir







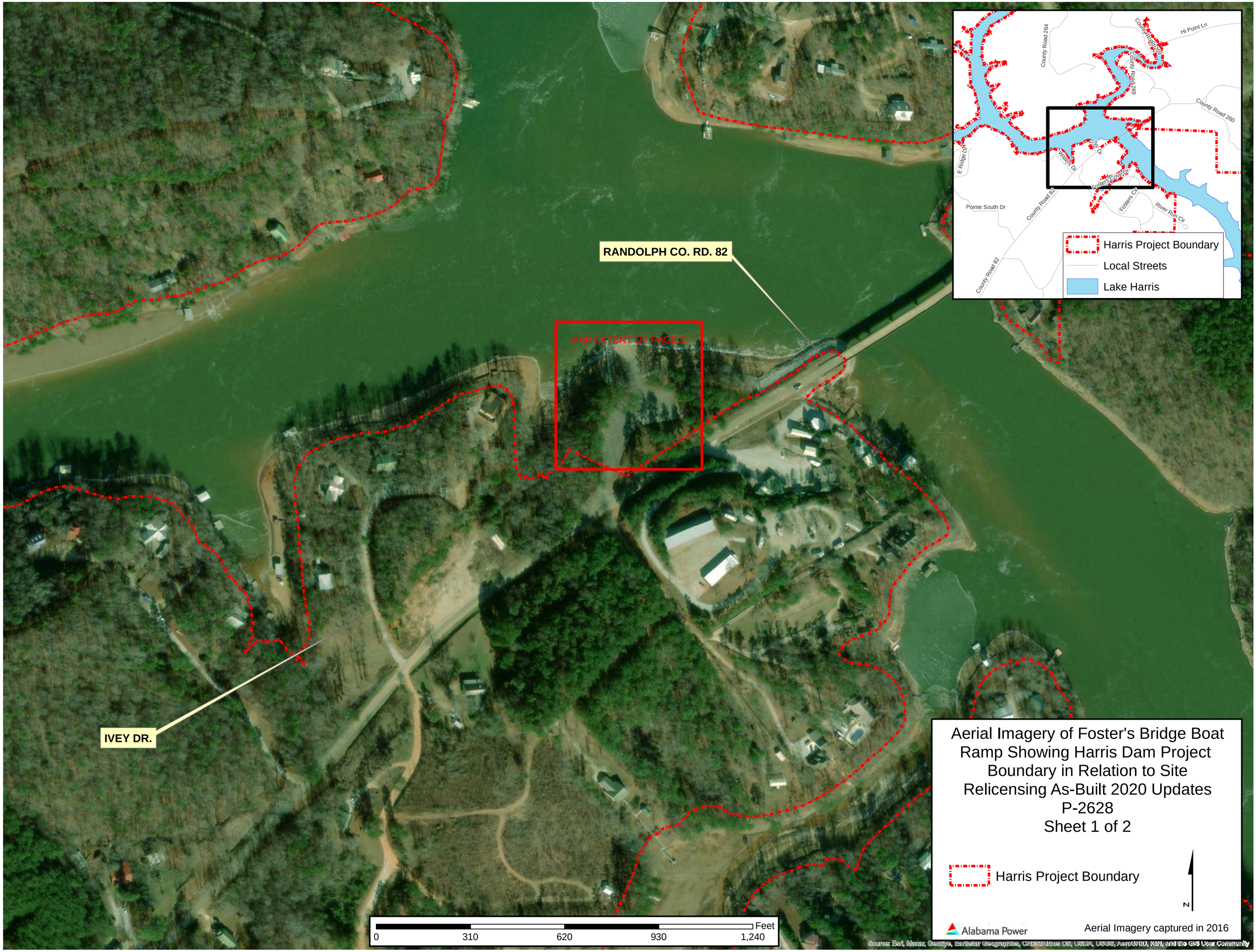
Bench

Pergola

Gazebo



Amenities listed below are for entire site and may not be on each sheet:
~189 single parking spaces and 7 barrier-free parking spaces; 42 pavilions (39 single/3 group) with picnic tables; 1 individual picnic table and 2 individual barrier-free picnic tables; Barrier-free interpretive area; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to 2 individual barrier-free picnic tables and barrier-free interpretive area; 2 group pavilions with 4 tables and 1 barrier-free group pavilion with 4 tables; Barrier-free path from 1 barrier-free parking space to 1 barrier-free group pavilion; Barrier-free playground; Barrier-free restroom; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to barrier-free restroom and barrier-free playground; Barrier-free fishing pier; Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free parking spaces to barrier-free fishing pier; Swim area; Elevated boardwalk; ~1 mile nature trail with interpretive signage, 1 gazebo, 3 benches, and 2 trail map kiosks.


RANDOLPH CO. RD. 82
IVEY DR.
MAP EXTENT OF PAGE 2
0
310
620
930
1,240
Feet
Harris Project Boundary
Local Streets
Lake Harris
County Road 264
County Road 268
Hi Point Ln
County Road 269
County Road 260
E Ridge Dr
Waters Dr
Ivy Dr
Foster's Cove Dr
Foster's Cir
River Run Cir
Pointe South Dr
County Road 82
County Road 92
Aerial Imagery of Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp Showing Harris Dam Project Boundary in Relation to Site
Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates
P-2628
Sheet 1 of 2
Harris Project Boundary
N
Alabama Power
Aerial Imagery captured in 2016
Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Aerial Imagery of Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp
Relicensing As-Built 2020
P-2628
Updates Sheet 2 of 2

N

Alabama Power Aerial Imagery captured in 2020



PATH FROM BOAT LAUNCH TO LAUNCHING PIER

2 LAUNCHING PIERS

2 LANE BOAT LAUNCH

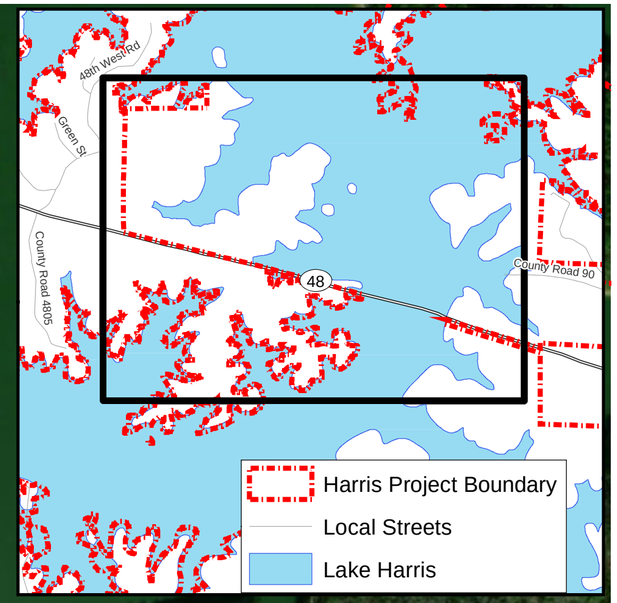
18 TRAILER PARKING SPACES

~18 trailer parking spaces; 2 lane boat launch; 2 launching piers;Path from boat launch to launching pier

48th West Road

Approximate Extent of Page 2

AL HWY 48



Feet
0 630 1,260 1,890 2,520

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoE

Aerial Imagery of Hwy 48 Boat Ramp Showing Harris Dam Project Boundary in Relation to Site

Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates

P-2628

Sheet 1 of 2

Harris Project Boundary

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2016

Aerial Imagery of Hwy 48 Boat Ramp Relicensing As-Built 2020
P-2628
Updates Sheet 2 of 2

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2017

Barrier-free path from barrier-free trailer parking to Barrier-free launching pier

Barrier-free launching pier

Launching pier

2 lane boat launch



Barrier-free restroom

2 barrier-free trailer parking spaces

28 Trailer Parking Spaces

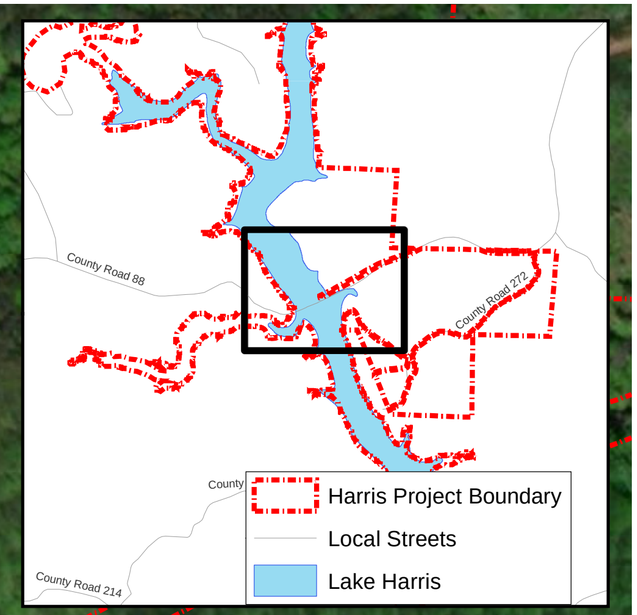
Barrier-free path

1 barrier-free trailer parking space

~ 27 trailer parking spaces and 3 barrier-free trailer parking spaces; 2 lane boat launch; Barrier-free launching pier and regular launching pier; Barrier-free path from barrier-free trailer space to barrier-free launching pier; Barrier-free restroom; Barrier-free path from barrier-free trailer space to barrier-free restroom

RANDOLPH CO. RD. 88

MAP EXTENT OF PAGE 2



0 230 460 690 920 Feet

Aerial Imagery of Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp Showing Harris Dam Project Boundary in Relation to Site Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates

P-2628

Sheet 1 of 2

Harris Project Boundary

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2016

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Aerial Imagery of Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp
Relicensing As-Built 2020
P-2628
Updates Sheet 2 of 2

N

Alabama Power Aerial Imagery captured in 2020

PATH FROM PARKING LOT TO LAUNCHING PIER

LAUNCHING PIER

4 TRAILER PARKING SPACES

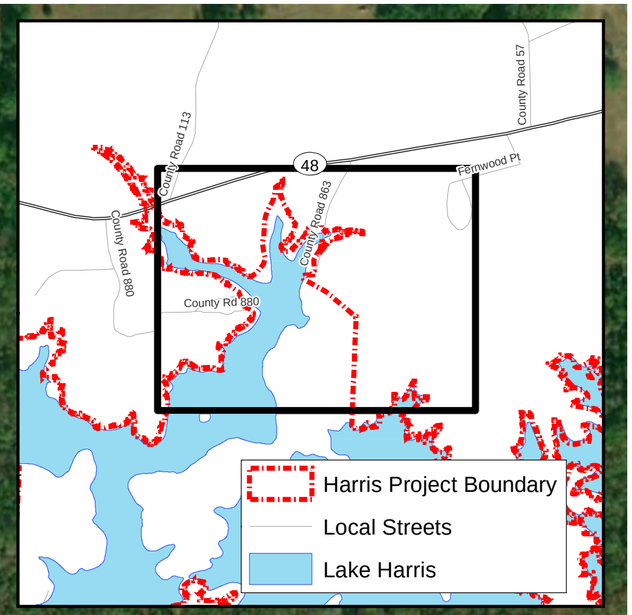
1 LANE BOAT LAUNCH

~4 trailer parking spaces; 1 lane boat launch; 1 launching pier; Path from parking lot to launching pier

AL HWY 48

Randolph Co. Rd. 863

Approximate Extent of Page 2



0 470 940 1,410 1,880 Feet

Aerial Imagery of Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp Showing Harris Dam Project Boundary in Relation to Site Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates

P-2628

Sheet 1 of 2

Harris Project Boundary

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2016

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Aerial Imagery of Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates

P-2628

Sheet 2 of 2

N

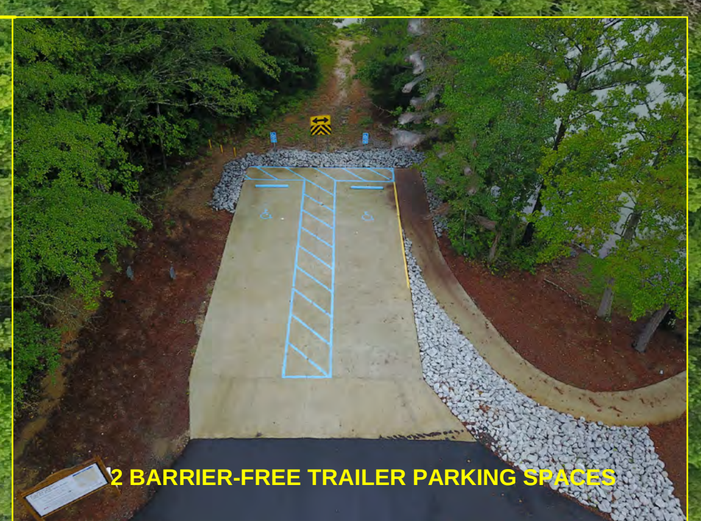
Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2017



BARRIER-FREE PATH FROM BARRIER-FREE TRAILER PARKING TO BARRIER-FREE LAUNCHING PIER AND 2 LANE BOAT LAUNCH

20 TRAILER PARKING SPACES



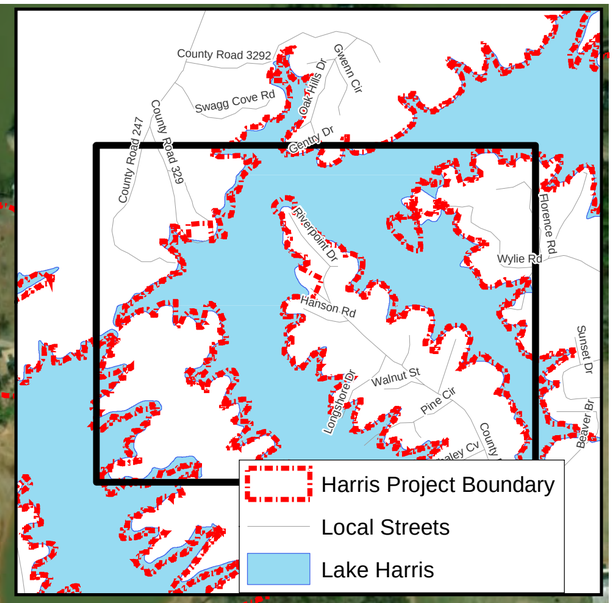
2 BARRIER-FREE TRAILER PARKING SPACES

~ 20 trailer parking spaces and 2 barrier-free trailer parking spaces; Barrier-free launching pier; Barrier-free path from barrier-free trailer parking space to barrier-free launching pier and boat launch;
2 lane boat launch

Randolph Co. Rd. 7

Approximate Extent of Page 2

Randolph Co. Rd. 129



0 630 1,260 1,890 2,520 Feet

Source: Esri, Maxar, Geo

Aerial Imagery of Lonnie White Boat Ramp Showing Harris Dam Project Boundary in Relation to Site Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates P-2628

Sheet 1 of 2

Harris Project Boundary

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2016

Aerial Imagery of Lonnie White
Boat Ramp Relicensing
As-Built 2020 Updates
P-2628
Sheet 2 of 2

N

Alabama Power Aerial Imagery captured in 2017

21 TRAILER PARKING SPACES

2 LANE BOAT LAUNCH

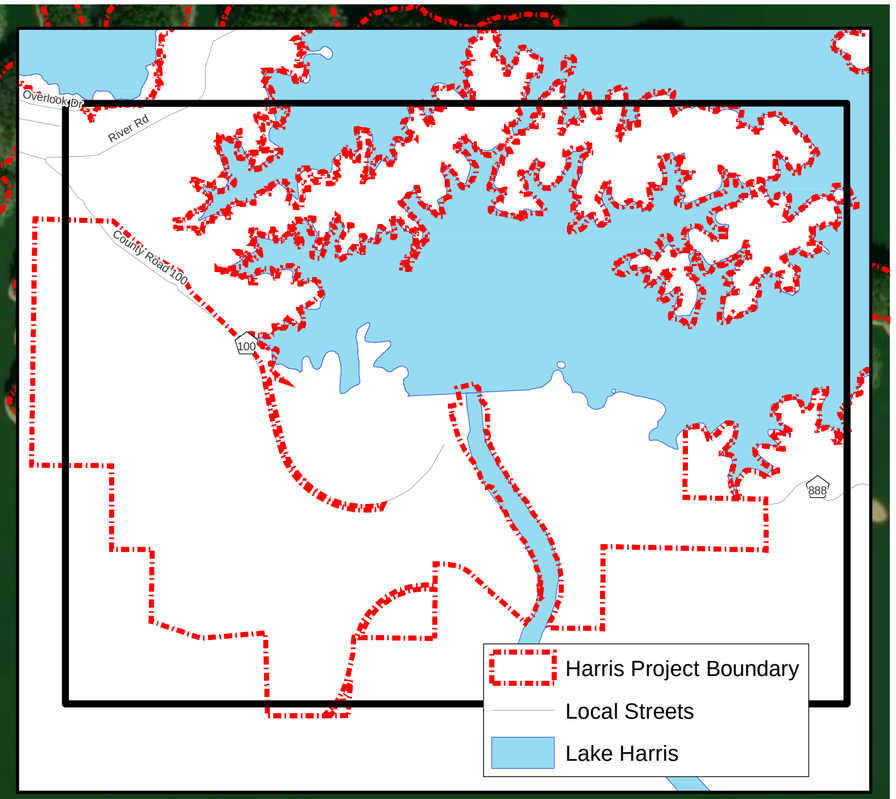
LAUNCHING PIER

~ 21 trailer parking spaces; 2 lane boat launch; Launching pier

MOONLIGHT DRIVE

RANDOLPH CO. RD. 100

Approximate Extent of Page 2



0 1,100 2,200 3,300 4,400 Feet

Aerial Imagery of Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier Showing Harris Dam Project Boundary in Relation to Site
Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates
P-2628
Sheet 1 of 2

Harris Project Boundary

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2016

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Aerial Imagery of Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates

P-2628

Sheet 2 of 2

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2017



BARRIER-FREE PATH

NON-FUNCTIONAL RESTROOM TO BE REMOVED

BARRIER-FREE SINGLE VEHICLE SPACE

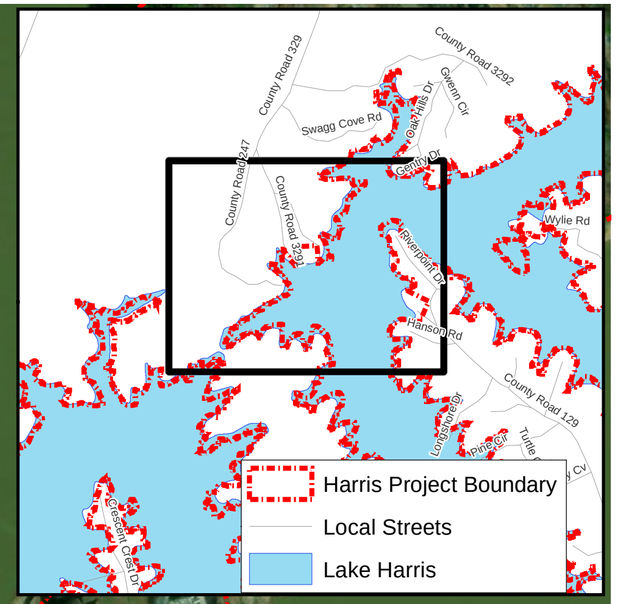
SINGLE VEHICLE SPACES



~8 single vehicle spaces and 2 barrier-free single vehicle spaces; Barrier-free restroom; Barrier-free path from barrier-free single vehicle space to barrier-free restroom; Barrier-free path from barrier-free single vehicle space to fishing pier; 3 benches at fishing pier

Randolph Co. Rd. 7

Approximate Extent of Page 2



0 390 780 1,170 1,560 Feet

Source: Esri, Maxar, Ge

Aerial Imagery of Swagg Boat Ramp Showing Harris Dam Project Boundary in Relation to Site Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates

P-2628

Sheet 1 of 2

Harris Project Boundary

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2016

Aerial Imagery of Swagg
Boat Ramp Relicensing
As-Built 2020 Updates
P-2628
Sheet 2 of 2

N

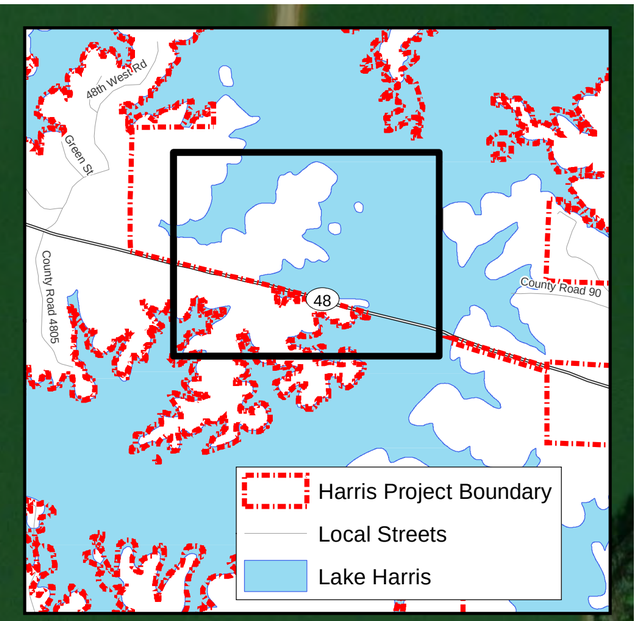
Alabama Power Aerial Imagery captured in 2017

4 TRAILER PARKING SPACES AND 4 SINGLE PARKING SPACES

2 LANE BOAT LAUNCH

LAUNCHING PIER

~4 trailer parking spaces and 4 single parking spaces; 2 lane boat launch; Launching pier





AL HWY 48

Aerial Imagery of Wedowee Marine South Showing Harris Dam Project Boundary in Relation to Site Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates P-2628 Sheet 1 of 2

Harris Project Boundary

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2016

0 390 780 1,170 1,560 Feet

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Aerial Imagery of Wedowee Marine South
Relicensing As-Built 2020
P-2628
Updates Sheet 2 of 2

N

Alabama Power Aerial Imagery captured in 2020

2 DRY BOAT STORAGE BUILDINGS



4 BARRIER-FREE SINGLE VEHICLE PARKING SPACES

SHIP STORE WITH RESTAURANT

2 FLOATING, COVERED DOCKS

60 TRAILER PARKING SPACES



DAY USE PARKING WITH 17 SINGLE VEHICLE PARKING SPACES AND 1 BARRIER-FREE SINGLE VEHICLE PARKING SPACE

51 SINGLE VEHICLE SPACES

SWIM PIER

LAUNCHING PIER

SWIM BEACH



DAY USE AREA WITH PLAYGROUND AND 2 PICNIC TABLES

2 LANE BOAT LAUNCH

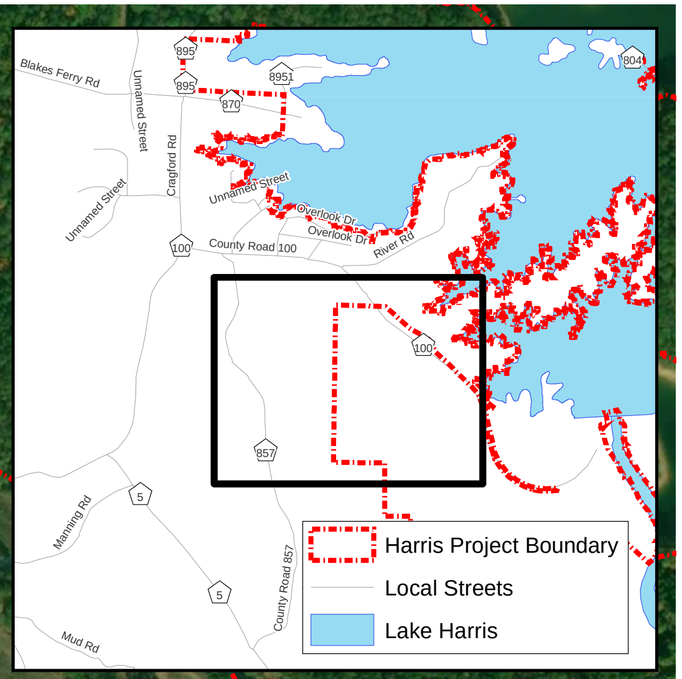
FUEL STATION WITH 4 BOAT SLIPS AND SMALL STORE

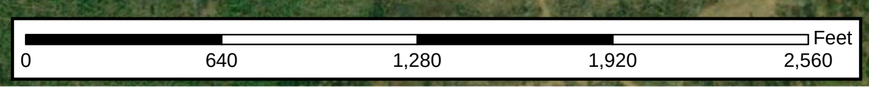


~68 single vehicle parking spaces, 5 barrier-free single vehicle parking spaces (51 single vehicle/4 barrier-free in main parking lot and 17 single vehicle/1 barrier-free in day use parking lot); ~60 trailer parking spaces; 2 lane boat launch; Ship store and restaurant; Fuel station with 4 boat slips and small store; 2 dry boat storage buildings for ~100 boats each; 2 floating, covered docks with ~58 total boat slips that can accommodate up to ~116 watercraft; Launching pier; Day-use area with playground, 2 picnic tables, 60' long swim beach and swim pier

RANDOLPH CO. RD. 100

Approximate Extent of Page 2





Aerial Imagery of R.L. Harris Managment Area Showing Harris Dam Project Boundary in Relation to Site Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates
P-2628
Sheet 1 of 2

Harris Project Boundary

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2016

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Aerial Imagery of R.L. Harris Managment Area Showing Harris Dam Project Boundary in Relation to Site Relicensing As-Built 2020 Updates P-2628 Sheet 2 of 2

N

Alabama Power

Aerial Imagery captured in 2016

Hunting Blind/Food Plot 6



Hunting Blind/Food Plot 1

Hunting Blind/Food Plot 5

Hunting Blind/Food Plot 2





Food Plot 3

Food Plot 4

4 barrier-free hunting blinds and associated parking spot; Barrier-free path from each associated parking spot to each barrier-free hunting blind; 6 food plots prepared annually for deer season

Feet

0 640 1,280 1,920 2,560

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

APPENDIX C

LAKE HARRIS PUBLIC ACCESS USER COUNTS AND PUBLIC ACCESS QUESTIONNAIRES

11/20/2020

Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires



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Introduction

One the many goals of the Recreation Evaluation Study Plan (Study Plan) for the R. L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2628) was to gather baseline information on existing recreation facilities including current recreational use and capacity. Southwick Associates provided questionnaire design and analytical services in connection with this facet of the Study Plan.

Initial efforts involved developing a sampling plan to ensure a representative and non-biased estimate of current site usage and visitor satisfaction. To do that, the 2014 FERC Form 80 data algorithms were reviewed and integrated into the process for estimating site usage for the specified recreational activities.[1] Through the course of the study year, data monitoring services were provided to ensure reliability and accuracy of the data collection effort. These efforts culminated in the calculation of site usage estimates and visitor satisfaction presented in this technical report.

Methodology

Recreation within the Lake Harris Project Area typically includes boating (non-motorized and motorized), fishing, water sports, swimming, picnicking, and hiking across its many sites.[2] The geographic scope of this visitation estimation effort is limited to the existing Project recreation sites on the R.L. Harris reservoir, excluding waters downstream of the Harris dam but including the Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform. The specific recreation sites included in the study are listed in Table 1.

[1] The 2014 Methodology is listed in Appendix B of the May 2019 Final Harris Project Recreation Evaluation Study Plan

[2] Project Area refers to the land and water in the Project Boundary and immediate geographic area adjacent to the Project Boundary.

Table 1. List of sites

Recreation Site Name	Type of Facility
Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Swagg Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Lonnie White Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Crescent Crest Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Wedowee Marine South[3]	Marina & public boat launch
Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp	Boat Launch
Flat Rock Park	Park
R. L. Harris Management Area[4]	Hunting
Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform	Fishing Access

Lake Harris Public Access User Count Estimation

Recreational site usage of the R.L. Harris reservoir was estimated in 2014 according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Form 80 standards. One goal of this current study was to estimate existing demand and recreational needs as well as potential future demand. While estimating future demand is not part of Southwick's focus, the overall effort can be facilitated by examining changes in usage since 2014. Therefore, estimated usage in 2019 relies largely on the same methods as the 2014 FERC Form 80 data algorithms to ensure comparability between this and the earlier study. The approach was refined and adjusted as needed but only after careful review of the impact of the change(s).

Data sampling plan

Recreational usage data collection at the sites began on March 11, 2019, and ran through December 15, 2019. Prior to the start of data collection, Southwick Associates created a month-by-month calendar of data collection shifts for each of the specific sites to be observed based on the list of target recreational access sites identified by Alabama Power and their consultants at Kleinschmidt. Monthly schedules were provided to Kleinschmidt for use in managing the efforts of the data collection team.

The schedule was structured in a way that during each month of the study period sites were to be counted a minimum of six weekdays (8 am to 5 pm) and three weeknights (after 5 pm) at varying times of day and days of the week. Two weekend days and one weekend night were to

[3] Wedowee Marine South is one of three marinas around Lake Harris but is the only include in this portion of the study because it is a Project recreation site.

[4] The R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area is an unmanned, day-use, reservation-only hunting property for people with physical disabilities. Alabama Power and the Alabama Deparment of Conservation and Natural Resources jointly manage the seasonal facilty.

be observed each month, and one count was conducted during each holiday weekend (Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day).

For each month during the year, all the possible day and time periods within a month based on these criteria were categorized. Shifts were then selected at random in order to capture the diversity of usage across all days and time periods. Staffing limitations allowed for no more than four locations to be monitored at any one time. In the case that a site was the fifth selected for a particular day and time period, a second random draw replaced the first day and time period selection. A total of 1,368 shifts took place over the course of the sampling period.[5] Table 2 reports the distribution of those shifts by season, day type, and time period of the shift.

Table 2. Distribution of data collection shifts by season, day, and shift

		Count	Percent
Months	March-April	216	16%
	May-July	449	33%
	August-October	489	36%
	October-December	214	16%
Days	Weekday	921	67%
	Weekend	447	33%
Time	9am-1pm	557	41%
	1-5pm	551	40%
	5-8pm	260	19%

Note: Rounding of monthly proportions results in a sum greater than 100%.

Data collection monitoring

Paper forms were utilized for data collection. Data clerks recorded the count of vehicles in the parking areas at the location at the start of the shift, counted and recorded vehicles for each hour during the shift, and counted vehicles in the parking area at the end of the shift. In addition to vehicle traffic, clerks collected activity counts. Each hour, they made a circuit of the site and recorded counts of people by activity observed.

While most locations required only one data collection clerk, staffing was tailored for two specific sites due to higher visitation and to maintain accuracy. At Highway 48, two clerks were scheduled per shift. At Flat Rock Park, at least two clerks per shift were scheduled during the week (one clerk stationed at each entrance), and, during peak holiday weekends, at least four clerks were scheduled covering each entrance as well as conducting interviews inside the day-park.

To ensure data quality, the data collection staff manger transmitted collected data to Southwick Associates on a bi-weekly basis. This gave the research team the ability to regularly

[5] Shift totals include instant counts at Wedowee South Marine and Lee's Bridge

monitor data collection through the data collection process, track trends in usage patterns, and identify data problems in a timely manner. Data collection issues (e.g., missing data, anomalous numbers) were communicated to Kleinschmidt for review and were promptly resolved.

Throughout the course of the year, adjustments were made to the site visitation schedule based on visitation patterns observed at a particular site and/or the ability to capture utilization at a particular site. Three adjustments are notable. First, early during the visitation data collection period, two sites (Lee's Bridge and the public boat launch located at the Wedowee Marine South location) were receiving lower than anticipated visitation. The decision was made to stop scheduling data collection clerks at these locations, and the data collection requirement was changed to an instant count on May 27, 2019. Data clerks were not required to stay at the location for a full shift. Instead, they stayed for approximately fifteen minutes to record utilization. Secondly, the Flat Rock Park location closed for usage on weekdays earlier in the year than planned.[6] Those weekday shifts were cancelled, but the data clerks continued to gather data during the weekend shifts. Lastly, as the sunset shifted earlier in the evening and after the shift to standard time from daylight savings time, usage of all sites lessened during the evening shifts. Scheduled evening shifts were transitioned to instant counts as well.

Data cleaning and preparation

Upon completion of the data collection phase, Southwick Associates conducted data cleaning to identify outliers or other questionable values. The quality control approach taken was two-fold. First, a random proportion from each type of data (visitor counts & satisfaction counts) was selected and double-checked for accuracy of data entry. No issues were identified.

Second, as the data were analyzed, particularly with the visitor count data, normal patterns were expected to emerge. For example, weekend utilization should be relatively higher than weekdays. To develop the estimates, the data treatment involved separating the count data into weekdays, weekends, morning, evening, etc., providing a way for comparative analysis to identify anomalies within a period of the day or week potentially related to data entry. Any anomalies were then also double-checked against the original count form.

Any visitor collection information that was incomplete or inconsistent was omitted from the actual analysis to ensure it did not adversely affect the reliability of overall results.

Analysis

Southwick Associates utilized Microsoft Access and Microsoft Excel to analyze the collected data to estimate usage and utilization capacity of each of the twelve recreation sites. The specific metrics and method of calculation are outlined below. The approach follows FERC

[6] Data collection took place at Flat Rock Park between May 26 through September 15, 2019, after which it was closed due to low attendance.

Form 80 standards, which were also applied to the earlier study completed in 2014 but were refined and adjusted based on the sampling plan implemented for this research effort.

Recreation periods

The sampling plan focused on collecting data across distinct periods of time: weekday daytime, weekday evening, weekend daytime, weekend evening, and holiday. As previously mentioned, the data were organized by period as part of the data cleaning process. The site-specific estimates discussed in the next section begin by calculating the usage per day by type of period. These are then aggregated into an annual measure of usage based on the periods each site is open for operation. Counts of peak and non-peak periods for sites open year-round and seasonally are provided in Table 3. Please note that these are distinct from data collection shifts discussed in Table 2.

Table 3. Count of peak and non-peak periods used for recreational visitation estimation

	Annual operation	Flat Rock Park Season
Non-peak		
Weekdays in the year	258	57
Peak		
Weekend days in the year	98	30
Holiday and holiday weekend	9	9
Total	365	96

Estimating recreational visitation to the boat launches and fishing platform

Most of the activity at boat launch sites consists of vehicles with trailer rigs putting in and taking out of the lake. The Boat Launch Area calculation is used to generate the estimated average number of recreational boaters per day (APC 2018, p. 22):[7]

Average # of boats per period by site = Total # of trailer rigs counted at the site over the course of a period divided by Total # of site visits conducted for that period.

Note: The total trailer rig count included the initial count at the start of a shift, and the vehicle counts recorded as entering the site during the shift.

Total annual boats by site = (Average # of boats at the site per non-peak period multiplied by the total number of non-peak periods the site is open for utilization through the year) plus (Average # of boats at the site per peak period multiplied by the total number of peak periods site is open for utilization through the year).

[7] It is important to note that a modification was made to the 2014 FERC Form 80 data algorithm calculations used to generate recreational days. In all cases, the calculations in the Study Plan includes an expansion component to account for turnover of the site through the day. During 2014, the data collection methodology did not involve recording activity throughout the course of a shift, thus requiring the need for an assumed turnover rate. The 2019 data collection methodology did involve data collection through the course of a shift; thus, no turnover rate adjustment is applied.

Total annual boater recreational days by site = Total annual boats by site multiplied by 2 (average users per boat).

Evidence indicates that the boat launch areas are also multi-use locations for people. Most do go to launch a boat, but activity counts suggest that these sites are also used for fishing from the shore or a pier if available and for swimming when permitted. The Active Recreation Area calculation is used to generate the estimated number of additional recreationalists (those who fish or swim, for example) per day is calculated as follows (APC 2018, p. 29):

Average # of <u>additional vehicles</u> per period by site = Total # of vehicles without rigs counted at the site over the course of a period divided by Total # of site visits conducted for that period.

Note: The total vehicle count included the initial count at the start of a shift and the vehicle counts recorded as entering the site during the shift.

Total annual vehicles by site = (Average # of vehicles at the site per non-peak period multiplied by the total number of non-peak periods the site is open for utilization through the year) plus (Average # of vehicles at the site per peak period multiplied by the total number of peak periods the site is open for utilization through the year).

Total annual additional recreational days by site = Total annual vehicles by site multiplied by 2 (average users per vehicle).

This collective group of additional recreationalists was disaggregated into activity types based on the activity specific count data gathered using the following approach:

Anglers at boat launches:

Total # of angler days by site= Total # of additional recreational days by site multiplied by the proportion of anglers

Proportion of anglers by site = Total # of anglers divided by the Total # of all general recreationalists

Total # of all general recreationalists by site = Total # of anglers plus Total # of other recreationalists (hikers, swimmers, etc.)

Total # of anglers by site = (Average # of anglers at the site per non-peak period multiplied by the total number of non-peak periods the site is open for utilization through the year) plus (Average # of anglers at the site per peak period multiplied by the total number of peak periods the site is open for utilization through the year). [8]

Average # of anglers per period by site = Total # of anglers counted at the site over the course of a period divided by the Total # of site visits conducted for that period.

[8] The "period" is further disaggregated down to the hour unit. Data clerks were asked to make a circuit of the site each hour and record the count of people observed by activity. These counts have a high probability of double counting an individual in more than one-hour circuit given that it would be difficult to identify who had been counted in the previous hour. Using an average visitor count per hour does not remove the potential bias introduced by double counting but does reduce the impact of double counting.

Other recreationalists at boat launches:

Total # of other recreationalist days by site = Total # of additional recreational days by site multiplied by the proportion of other recreationalists

Proportion of other recreationalists by site = Total # of other recreationalists divided by the Total # of all general recreationalists

Total # of all general recreationalists by site = Total # of anglers plus Total # of other recreationalists (hikers, swimmers, etc.)

Total # of other recreationalists by site = (Average # of other recreationalists at the site per non-peak period multiplied by the total number of non-peak periods the site is open for utilization through the year) plus (Average # of other recreationalists at the site per peak period multiplied by the total number of peak periods site is open for utilization through the year).

Average # of other recreationalists per period by site = Total # of other recreationalists counted at the site over the course of a period/Total # of site visits conducted for that period.

<u>Estimating recreational visitation to the Flat Rock Park</u>

The number of recreationalists is tracked by park managers who shared data for the purpose of this research. Those data are recorded in aggregate, however. Evidence from the visitor count data indicates that the Park area is also multi-use location for people. Most go to swim and picnic, but some also go for fishing from the shore or a pier. The visitor count data is used to apportion the aggregate visitors to two activity types.

Anglers at Flat Rock Park:

Total # of anglers per period by site= Total # of recreational days at the site multiplied by the proportion of anglers.

Proportion of anglers by site = Total # of anglers divided by Total # of all general recreationalists.

Total # of all general recreationalists by site = Total # of anglers plus Total # of other recreationalists (picnickers, swimmers, etc.)

Total # of anglers by site = (Average # of anglers at the site per non-peak period multiplied by the total number of non-peak periods the site is open for utilization through the year) plus (Average # of anglers at the site per peak period multiplied by the total number of peak periods the site is open for utilization through the year).

Average # of anglers per period by site = Total # of anglers counted at the site over the course of a period divided by Total # of site visits conducted for that period.

Other recreationalists at Flat Rock Park:

Total # of other recreationalists by site = Total # of recreational days by site multiplied by Proportion of other recreationalists.

Proportion of other recreationalists by site = Total # of other recreationalists divided by Total # of all general recreationalists,

Total # of all general recreationalists by site = Total # of anglers plus Total # of other recreationalists (picnickers, swimmers, etc.).

Total # of other recreationalists by site = (Average # of other recreationalists at the site per non-peak period multiplied by the total number of non-peak periods the site is open for utilization through the year) plus (Average # of other recreationalists at the site per peak period multiplied by the total number of peak periods site is open for utilization through the year).

Average # of other recreationalists per period by site = Total # of other recreationalists counted at the site over the course of a period divided by Total # of site visits conducted for that period.

Marina and Hunting

Estimation of recreational days for Wedowee Marine South and the R.L. Harris Management Area are treated differently than the algorithms defined above. At the outset of the study, it was anticipated that the same type of utilization tracking could take place on-site at Wedowee Marine South by the staff. As of May 27, 2019, it became clear that would not be feasible. In the absence of these data, the alternative approach was to gather annual slip rental counts from the Wedowee Marine South's owner. Using those data, the total recreational days associated with boating activity was calculated as (APC 2018, Appendix B p. 8):

Total annual boater recreational days by site = Total slips rented multiplied by 2 (average users per boat) multiplied by total number of days the location is open.
Note: Per FERC definitions, both slip rentals and dry storage should be included in the above calculation as well as the capacity utilization discussed in the next section. Only slip rental data was provided by Wedowee Marine South, thus the dry storage portion of these calculations were not included. To the extent that boats in dry storage represent potential usage through the year, exclusion of those days means this estimate of recreational days is conservative.

The usage was allocated across the periods (weekday, weeknight, etc.) based on the average pattern of usage observed at the eight boat launches.

The R.L. Harris Management Area estimation of utilization was provided directly by Alabama Power Company as a "man day" metric. This measure reflects the sum of days of use, rather than a count across all reservations, to best align with the capacity metric defined in the next section.

Capacity and percent capacity utilization

Site inventories were conducted by Kleinschmidt. The relevant data from those inventories were shared with Southwick Associates for the purpose of calculating percent capacity

utilization. Consistent with FERC definitions, these data were predominantly the number of trailer rig and non-trailer parking spaces at each location, with two exceptions. The calculations were as follows (APC 2018, p. 22-34):

Boat Launch Areas daily capacity = Total # of trailer rig parking spaces multiplied by 2 (average users per boat) multiplied by 3 (average turnover throughout the day).

Tailwater Fishing Platform daily capacity = [Length of pier available for fishing divided by 8 (average horizontal space needed per fisherman)] multiplied by 3 (average turnover throughout the day)

Active Recreation Areas daily capacity = Total # of single car parking spaces multiplied by 2 (average users per vehicle) multiplied by 2 (average turnover throughout the day)

Marinas daily capacity = Total # of boat slips within the project boundary

Hunting Areas da*ily capacity* = Maximum # of hunters allowed daily

The following formula used to calculate capacity utilization for all sites:

Capacity utilization = Daily capacity divided by Estimated daily use

The two exceptions involve the Flat Rock Park and the Wedowee Marine South locations. Flat Rock Park is used for swimming, picnicking, and fishing. In the case of evaluating capacity utilization for swimming at the Park, FERC algorithms require the acreage available for swimmers. The inventory questionnaire indicates that there is no defined swimming area, so a finite acreage is not possible. To estimate capacity at a fishing pier requires an inventory of pier length. However, Alabama Power Company indicates it considers the fishing pier and day park area as one site, and inventory data are only available for parking spaces. As an alternative, the active recreation area was employed. Similar to methodology used in the 2014 FERC Form 80 data algorithms, picnicking is not estimated separately. In the case of Wedowee Marine South, no information was provided regarding dry dock storage. Therefore, only slip rental data are included in the algorithm.

Lake Harris Public Access Questionnaires

Based on recommendations from draft versions of Alabama Power's study plan, interviews to solicit input from visitors to Lake Harris about their current and future recreational needs were conducted. Southwick Associates developed a sampling plan for the efficient collection of intercept questionnaires during the 2019 recreational season in conjunction with the annual visitation estimation schedule.

In its recommendation on April 12, 2019, FERC specified administration of the satisfaction questionnaire at Flat Rock Park and collection of 300 questionnaire responses. After collaborative discussions with Kleinschmidt and Alabama Power Company, there was agreement around shifting away from targeting Flat Rock Park alone and to broaden the scope to the usership of the entire lake. Therefore, the sampling plan was designed to implement the visitor interviews at Flat Rock Park as well as the boat launch locations, dividing the total to be collected at each location type (150 at Flat Rock Park and 150 at the boat launch locations) but place no limits on the total interviews completed. To simplify the process for data collection clerks, questionnaires were collected during each site visitation shift. This approach gathered the number of questionnaires requested by FERC but oversampled collection at boat launches and fishing platforms.

At the outset, minimum interviews were uniquely set for each location type to ensure the number of interviews captured at Flat Rock Park achieved the minimum goal of 150 completed questionnaires, given that it is open for a shorter season than the boat launches. Beginning on May 10, 2019, staff assigned to that park were asked to collect at least three completed questionnaires for each shift in addition to visitation data. The questionnaires were collected as randomly as possible, such that completed questionnaires were not gathered from consecutive arrivals but rather distributed across the shift. For the boat launches and fishing platform, staff were asked to collect one completed questionnaire along with the recreational use count data.

Table 4. Interviews completed by location

Site	Location Type	Frequency	Percent
Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp	Boat Launch	337	25%
Flat Rock Park	Recreational facility	208	15%
Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp	Boat Launch	193	14%
Lonnie White Boat Ramp	Boat Launch	123	9%
Crescent Crest Boat Ramp	Boat Launch	114	8%
Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp	Boat Launch	108	8%
Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp	Boat Launch	105	8%
Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform	Fishing platform	83	6%
Swagg Boat Ramp	Boat Launch	81	6%
Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp	Boat Launch	5	0%
Total		**1,357**	**100%**

In the event that additional visitors would like to be part of the questionnaire effort, data clerks were instructed to welcome additional responses but there was no need to solicit more than the minimum required as defined above. All potential respondents were asked if they had taken the questionnaire at the present or a different site. Those who had been interviewed were not re-interviewed. A total of 1,357 completed interviews were collected across all locations (Table 4). The largest proportions were collected at the Highway 48, Flat Rock Park, and Big Fox Creek locations.

The visitor questionnaire consisted of just four questions, centering around their overall level of satisfaction with the site and their suggested improvements, if any. Responses were gathered by the intercept technique, and data collection occurred via paper forms. The data collection staff manger transmitted collected data on a bi-weekly basis along with the site recreational use data. This allowed for monitoring of data collection and identification of data problems within the data collection phase rather than the analytical phase.

Upon completion of the data collection phase, data cleaning was conducted to identify outliers or other questionable values. The quality control approach taken was to select and review a random proportion of questionnaires to confirm the accuracy of data entry. No issues were identified.

Southwick Associates utilized Microsoft Access, IBM SPSS Statistics (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), and Microsoft Excel to analyze the collected data to estimate visitor satisfaction. The general distribution of satisfaction questionnaires gathered from the boat launch sites was evaluated relative to the estimates of general usage across those sites. The goal was to determine if a site or sites were under or over-represented within the satisfaction sample. We do find that the satisfaction questionnaire frequencies are statistically different, particularly for the Big Fox Creek and Highway 48 Bridge sites (Figure 1). The average satisfaction rating by boat launch was also evaluated, and findings suggest that the variation in the rates by boat launch could skew the average rating across all boat launches. A proportional weight based on the estimated total visitor counts was applied to the questionnaire results to adjust for the distributional differences seen in Figure 1. That weighting ultimately had little impact to the average satisfaction score and suggested improvements discussed later in this report.

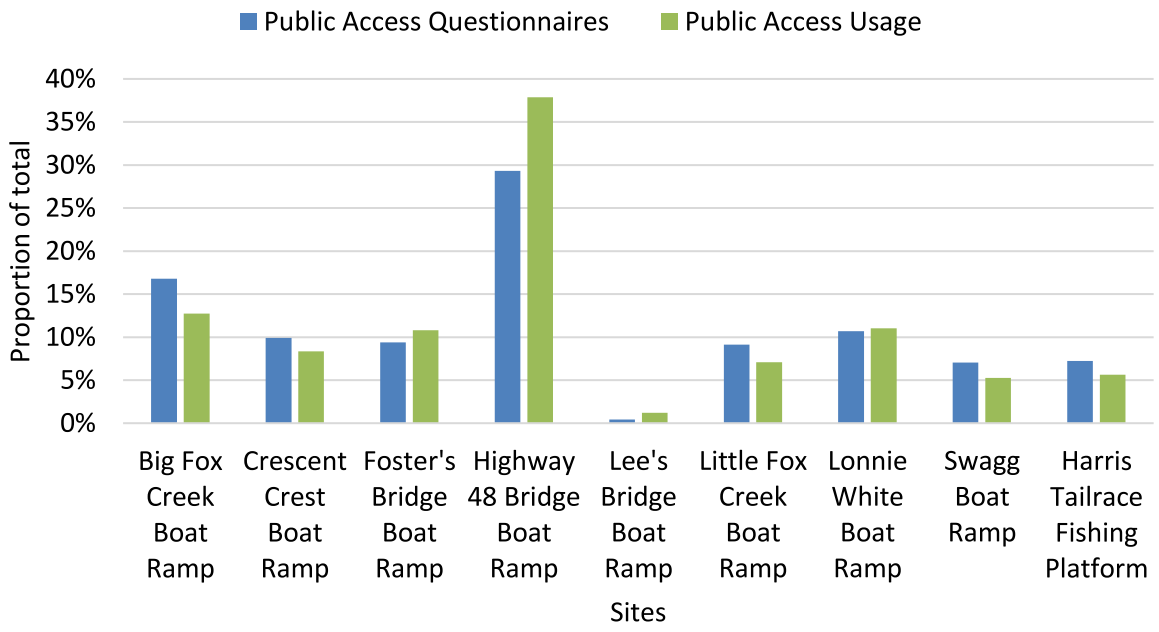


Figure 1. Distribution of satisfaction questionnaire responses and estimated utilization by site

In an effort to summarize and quantify the polarity of the many unstructured comments provided by respondents, a sentiment analysis was performed. Sentiment analysis uses natural language processing to systematically identify and then quantify the subjective information within text data. For example, terms such as “like” or “love” are typically identified with a positive connotation while terms such as “need” or “crowded” are typically identified with a negative connotation. In this case, the global sentiment of the comment is evaluated to determine whether it has positive, negative, or neutral sentiment.

Results

Lake Harris Public Access User Count Estimates

Over 227,000 recreational visitor-days were spent around Lake Harris in the twelve locations included within this research effort (Table 5). The Hwy 48 Bridge and Wedowee Marine South contribute the largest proportions of visitor-days and have the highest percent capacity utilization, 84% and 79%, respectively.[9]

Table 5. Daily capacity, utilization, and percent capacity utilization by site

Site	Location Type	Total Recreation Days	Daily Capacity	Daily Utilization	% Capacity Utilization
Big Fox Creek	Boat Ramp	18,506	156	51	33%
Crescent Crest	Boat Ramp	12,112	138	33	24%
Hwy 48 Bridge	Boat Ramp	54,986	180	151	84%
Foster's Bridge	Boat Ramp	15,705	108	43	40%
Swagg	Boat Ramp	7,664	54	21	39%
Little Fox Creek	Boat Ramp	10,304	192	28	15%
Lonnie White	Boat Ramp	16,033	150	44	29%
Lee's Bridge	Boat Ramp	1,734	24	5	20%
Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform	Fishing platform	8,198	34	22	65%
Flat Rock Park	Recreational facility	26,554	772	73	9%
Wedowee Marine South	Marina	55,480	192	152	79%
R.L. Harris Wildlife Mgmt. Area	Hunting	82	4	2	47%
Total		227,358	*na*	*na*	*na*

[9] Wedowee Marine South is not solely public access but utilized by customers.

Table 6 reports the estimated utilization across the periods of focus (weekday daytime, weekday nighttime, weekend daytime, weekend nighttime and holiday) across the three activity categorizations (boating-related, shoreline fishing, and other activities including swimming, picnicking, hiking, etc.).

Table 6. Visitation count estimates by site, activity, and period

		Total recreational days estimates by major activity category															TOTAL RECREATION DAYS (All activities)
		Boating					Shoreline fishing					Other activities					
		Weekday		Weekend & holiday			Weekday		Weekend & holiday			Weekday		Weekend & holiday			
Site	Location Type	Daytime	Nighttime	Daytime	Nighttime	Total recreation days	Daytime	Nighttime	Daytime	Nighttime	Total recreation days	Daytime	Nighttime	Daytime	Nighttime	Total recreation days	
Big Fox Creek	Boat Ramp	5,188	1,775	4,096	2,594	13,653	553	373	299	269	1,494	504	705	806	1,344	3,359	18,506
Crescent Crest	Boat Ramp	2,967	819	5,218	1,228	10,232	147	226	5	147	525	393	461	352	149	1,355	12,112
Hwy 48 Bridge	Boat Ramp	18,368	4,811	16,182	4,373	43,734	553	340	128	43	1,064	1,936	1,936	3,362	2,955	10,189	54,987
Foster's Bridge	Boat Ramp	3,908	1,891	4,916	1,891	12,606	247	82	367	220	916	546	655	306	677	2,184	15,706
Swagg	Boat Ramp	998	559	1,837	599	3,993	139	213	107	75	534	753	753	941	690	3,137	7,664
Little Fox Creek	Boat Ramp	1,146	688	2,408	1,490	5,732	102	280	102	0	484	1,513	1,186	940	450	4,089	10,305
Lonnie White	Boat Ramp	4,722	1,404	5,233	1,404	12,763	153	19	96	689	957	347	532	486	948	2,313	16,033
Lee's Bridge	Boat Ramp	160	39	117	117	433	25	33	55	69	182	414	425	123	157	1,119	1,734
Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform	Fishing platform	0	0	0	0	0	606	1,010	2677	758	5,051	283	315	2,297	252	3,147	8,198
Flat Rock Park	Park-Day use	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	110	91	261	6,310	2,892	9,728	7,362	26,292	26,553
Wedowee Marine South	Marina	17,962	6,450	21,707	9,362	55,481	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,481
R.L. Harris Wildlife Mgmt. Area	Hunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82	82

***Notes**: These participation metrics are considered estimations, because they are not reflective of activity tracked during each day of operation. Rather, it is assumed that the data collection days developed for sampling is reflective of typical usage during similar periods, and, thus, participation estimates were expanded from those data points to total utilization over the period of operation.*

"- "indicates the location does not provide facilities for that type of activity.

On average, the majority of boating-related utilization at the boat ramps occurs on weekends and holidays. Regardless of the day of the week, usage is predominantly during the Daytime period (9am through 5pm). No distinct pattern of weekday versus weekend/holiday usage is seen in the participation estimates for fishing and other activities. These activities are more likely to take place during the nighttime period (5pm to 9pm/dusk), which might be indicative of recreating after work or errands on the weekend.

As previously mentioned, total usage at Flat Rock Park is measured by Park staff. Distribution of activity across the day of the week and the time of day reflects data captured by Kleinschmidt's data collection clerks. The majority of the activity takes place on the weekend and holidays. Because the data from Wedowee Marine South consisted of only the slip count, distribution of utilization is directly related to the number of periods within the year.

Table 7 below provides additional insights about the types of activities encapsulated within the "Other activities" category in Table 6. People visiting the boat launch locations who are not boating or fishing were identified to be just hanging around, swimming, or an activity not included in the list. People visiting the Flat Rock Park location engaged largely in picnicking and swimming.

Table 7. Distribution of activity across "other" activity category

	Other activities							
	Activity not identified (just hanging around)	Bicycling	Camping (in tent, camper, or other)	Field Games	Hiking or Backpacking (trail use)	Picnicking	Swimming	Other activity
Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp	36%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	22%	39%
Crescent Crest Boat Ramp	29%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	27%	42%
Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp	63%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	36%
Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp	42%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	30%	25%
Swagg Boat Ramp	25%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	36%	37%
Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp	28%	0%	0%	0%	28%	0%	13%	31%
Lonnie White Boat Ramp	41%	0%	0%	2%	2%	0%	19%	35%
Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp	15%	13%	0%	0%	13%	7%	25%	28%
Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform	70%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	28%
Flat Rock Park	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	35%	53%	5%

Note: Rounding of proportions can result in a sum less than 100%.

Lake Harris Public Access Utilization Comparison: 2014 to 2019

Table 8 provides a side by side comparison of the estimated total recreational days for 2014 and 2019.[10] While the estimated total recreational days dropped by 5% between 2014 and 2019, usage over that period has varied by location type. Flat Rock Park and Wedowee Marine South both experienced reductions in recreation days, by roughly 50% and 31%, respectively.[11] Recreation days at boat ramps and the fishing platform is estimated to be 40% higher in 2019, relative to 2014. Methodological improvements implemented in 2019 to track usage over the course of a whole shift contribute to a portion of the difference in the estimates at these locations.

Table 8. Analysis and comparison of recreation facility use and capacity between 2014 and 2019 data collection periods

Site	Location Type	Total Recreation Days		% Capacity Utilization	
		2014	2019	2014	2019
Big Fox Creek	Boat Ramp	14,905	18,506	17%	33%
Crescent Crest	Boat Ramp	10,160	12,112	47%	24%
Hwy 48 Bridge	Boat Ramp	38,093	54,986	60%	84%
Foster's Bridge	Boat Ramp	10,182	15,705	18%	40%
Swagg	Boat Ramp	7,614	7,664	18%	39%
Little Fox Creek	Boat Ramp	2,024	10,304	11%	15%
Lonnie White	Boat Ramp	15,861	16,033	36%	29%
Lee's Bridge	Boat Ramp	2,040	1,734	12%	20%
Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform	Fishing platform	3,197	8,198	9%	65%
Flat Rock Park	Recreational facility	53,770	26,554	54%	36%
Wedowee Marine South*	Marina	80,358	55,480	85%	79%
R.L. Harris Wildlife Mgmt. Area	Hunting	93	82	51%	47%
Total		238,297	227,358		

**For the purposes of comparability, the 2014 Total Recreation Days reported for Wedowee Marine South are adjusted to mirror the 2019 methodology.[12]*

It is important to note that multiple factors can impact the decision to engage in outdoor recreation on Lake Harris and can contribute to the differences in recreational usage beyond the methodological changes. Weather conditions, changes in population of Lake Harris users

[10] Recreational usage data for 2014 was provided by Alabama Power.

[11] Recreational usage data for those locations were provided by local contacts and not through the same survey procedure as the other sites.

[12] Estimated total recreation days for the Wedowee Marine South location in 2014 was 241,074. The calculation is as follows: (Average use X 2 X 3) X 365, similar to the formulas utilized to estimate usage at boat launches. The expansion multipliers reflect an average of 2 users per boat, average turnover throughout the day, and total number of days the facility was open, respectively. The 2019 data reported directly by the Marina reflected slip rentals, which would not involve turnover in the same fashion as with boat launches, therefore the average turnover assumption was not applied to the calculation. The adjustment to the 2014 data involved simply removing the average turnover expansion multiplier.

(such as boaters and anglers), economic conditions (such as employment), and availability of alternative activities are just a few examples of the other factors. The comparison above does not take any of these factors into account.

In general, capacity utilization is higher in 2019 than 2014 at the boat ramps and fishing platform locations. Crescent Crest and Lonnie White experienced lower capacity usage in 2019.[13] Flat Rock Park, Wedowee Marine South, and R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area also experienced lower capacity usage, relative to 2014.

Lake Harris Public Access Questionnaires

General satisfaction

Three quarters of **boat launch visitors** rank their level of satisfaction with the location visited at seven or above, on a scale of 1-10 where 10 is most satisfied (Figure 2). The average rank across all visitors is 8.2 indicating boat launch visitors are generally satisfied with the boat launch locations and their facilities.

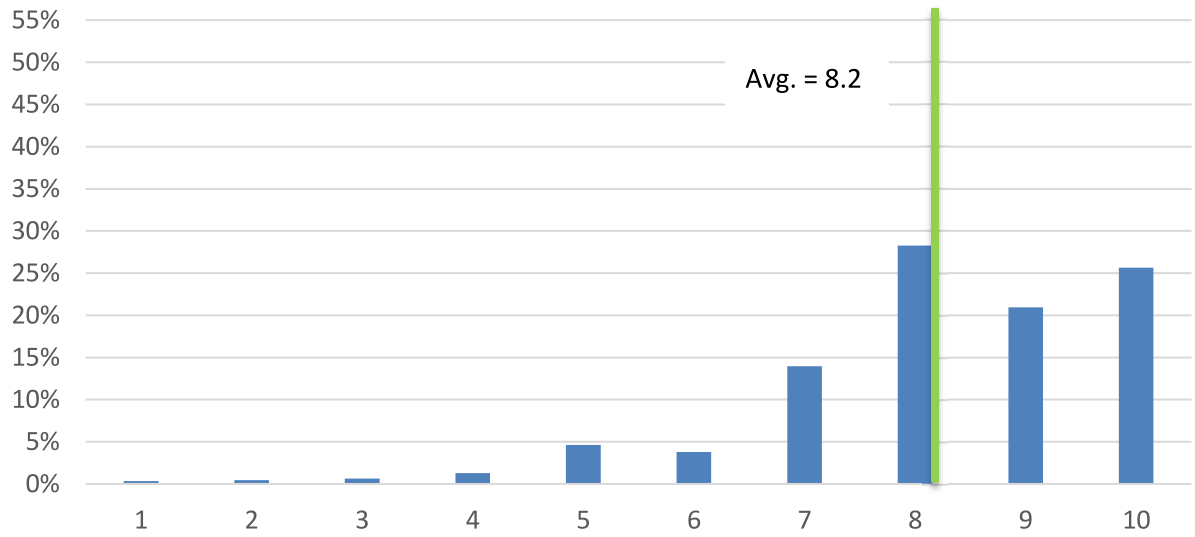


Figure 2. Boat launch satisfaction rankings: distribution and average

Eighty-seven percent of **Flat Rock Park visitors** rank their level of satisfaction with the location visited at seven or above, on a scale of 1-10 (Figure 3). The average rank across all visitors is 9.0 indicating visitors are generally satisfied with the location and its facilities.

[13] Typically, as usage rises capacity utilization does as well unless there have been changes to the site capacity since 2014. Capacity utilization at these two sites is estimated to have lowered while usage estimates have risen. Evaluation of the parking capacity at the two sites for both 2014 and 2019 indicate an expansion of capacity contributing to the lower proportion of capacity used on a daily basis.

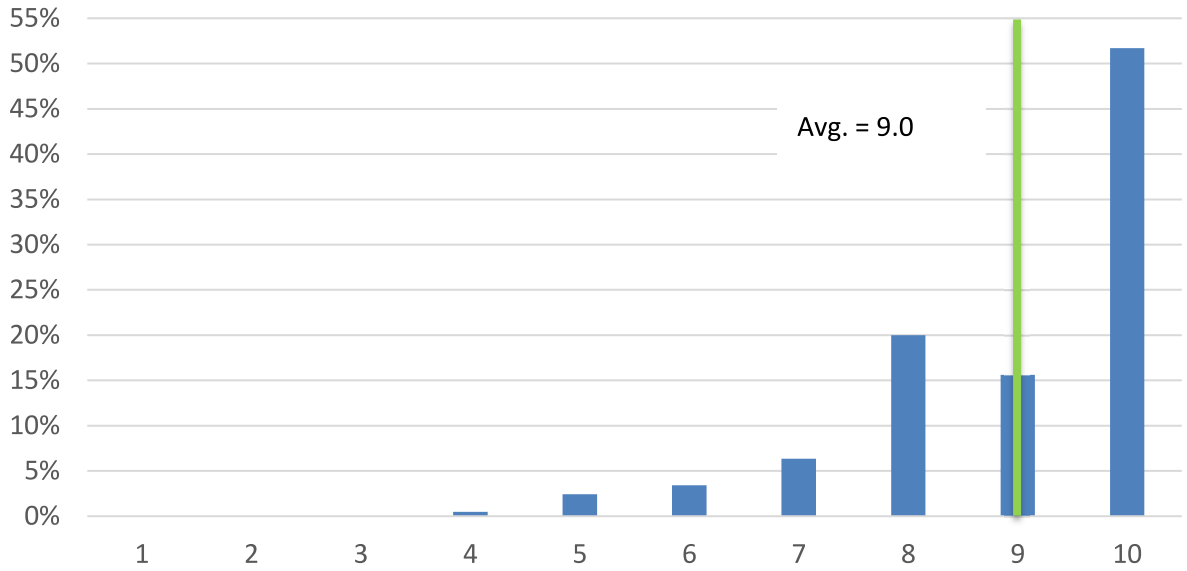


Figure 3. Flat Rock Park satisfaction rankings: distribution and average

Forty-two percent of people responding to the satisfaction questionnaire offered general comments about their recreation experience at their current or other sites on Lake Harris. The transcripts of those comments are included in the Appendix of this report.

Sixty-three percent of comments were complimentary about their time at the sites and on Lake Harris (Figure 4). Fourteen percent were negative in tone. Many of those comments expand on those areas of improvement already recorded while others spoke about issues such as safety and crowding.

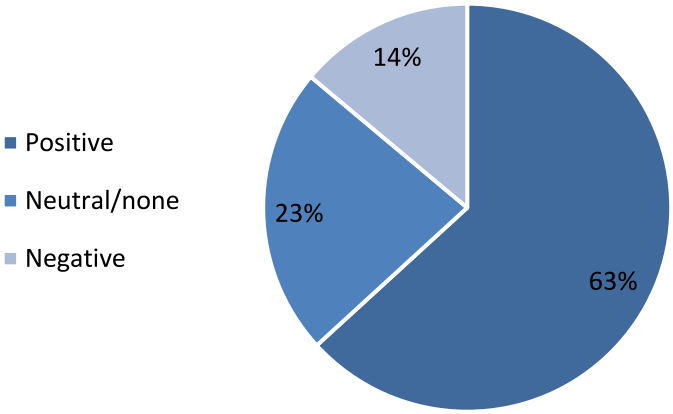


Figure 4: Sentiment of general comments

Areas for improvement

Among **boat launch visitors**, 75% of visitors who reported a satisfaction score also shared their insights about improvements needed at the location. The top two areas for improvement target an individual's waste management. Fifty-seven percent say restrooms at the location could be improved (Figure 5). This includes the addition of restrooms if none are currently on site, ensuring restrooms are accessible, and general upkeep of the facilities. During the visitor satisfaction questionnaire, respondents provided evidence that they noticed and greatly appreciated the efforts made to improve this issue over the summer.[14] The second most requested improvement was the addition or maintenance of trash cans.

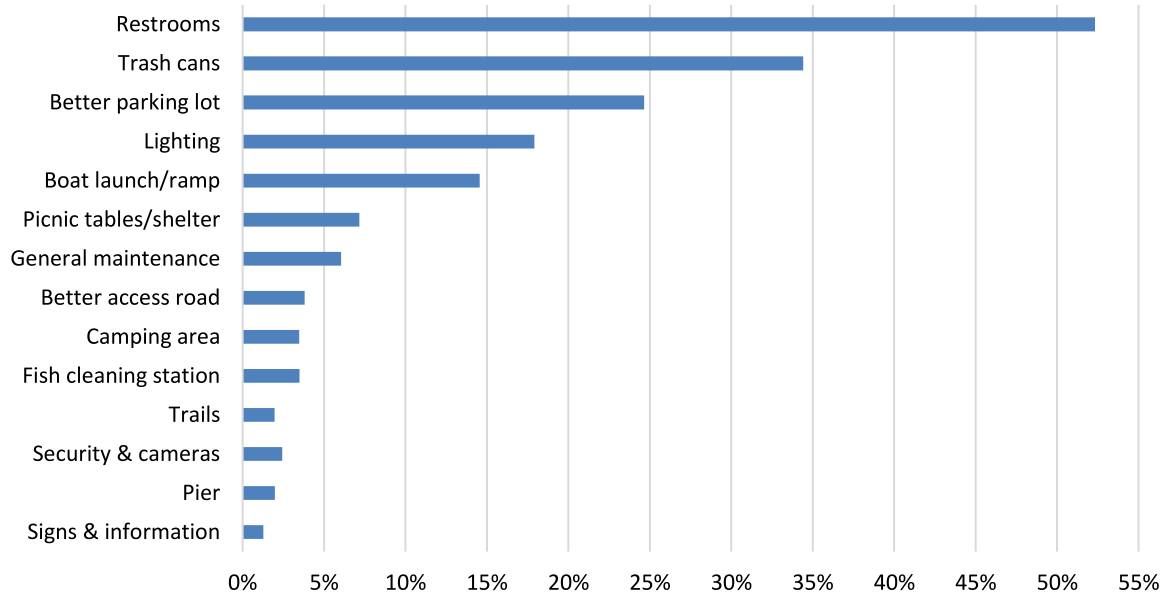


Figure 5. Recommended areas for improvement at boat ramps

Better parking lot and boat ramps also come in among the top five improvements needed. More than two thirds say parking is an issue at the boat launches with those issues ranging from the capacity of the parking lot to accommodate the traffic to the need for general maintenance of the surface of the parking lot and boat launch.

Lighting completes the list of the top five improvements. Almost 20% of visitors suggesting improvements indicate the lighting at the boat launches needs to be addressed. The improvements recommended range from ensuring all lighting at a boat launch is in working order as well as additional lighting to facilitate better visibility and safety during usage of the site at night.

[14] In November 2019, Highway 48 and the R.L. Harris Fishing Platform both had restroom facilities under construction. They were completed in February 2020.

Improvement suggestions by site are included in Table 9 and specific comments by location are included in the Appendix.

Table 9. Recommended areas for improvement by boat ramp location

Improvements	Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp	Crescent Crest Boat Ramp	Fosters Bridge Boat Ramp	Highway 48 Boat Ramp	Lees Bridge Boat Ramp	Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp	Lonnie White Boat Ramp	Swagg Boat Ramp	Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform
Restrooms	52%	52%	55%	49%	0%	56%	54%	53%	68%
Trash cans	33%	44%	40%	32%	27%	36%	34%	30%	36%
Better parking lot	11%	19%	5%	44%	0%	7%	27%	17%	4%
Lighting	29%	17%	22%	17%	0%	27%	10%	9%	9%
Boat launch/ramp	15%	15%	12%	13%	27%	7%	27%	23%	8%
Picnic tables/shelter	11%	5%	12%	1%	45%	11%	3%	11%	26%
General maintenance	1%	3%	29%	0%	9%	3%	2%	4%	4%
Better access road	8%	4%	3%	1%	0%	3%	6%	15%	4%
Camping	8%	4%	3%	1%	0%	12%	2%	4%	2%
Fish cleaning station	5%	4%	3%	2%	0%	3%	4%	2%	4%
Trails	5%	1%	2%	1%	0%	7%	1%	0%	4%
Security & cameras	4%	1%	3%	1%	9%	4%	3%	0%	6%
Pier	2%	0%	2%	3%	0%	3%	1%	0%	4%
Signs & information	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	3%	4%	0%	2%

Note: Multiple improvement selection were allowed, therefore totals are greater than 100%

Among **Flat Rock Park visitors**, 50% of visitors reporting a satisfaction score also shared their insights about improvements needed at the location. As with boat launches, the most cited area for improvement are the restroom facilities at the location could be improved (Figure 6). This includes the addition of restrooms to the existing one on site, ensuring restrooms are accessible, and general upkeep of the facilities.

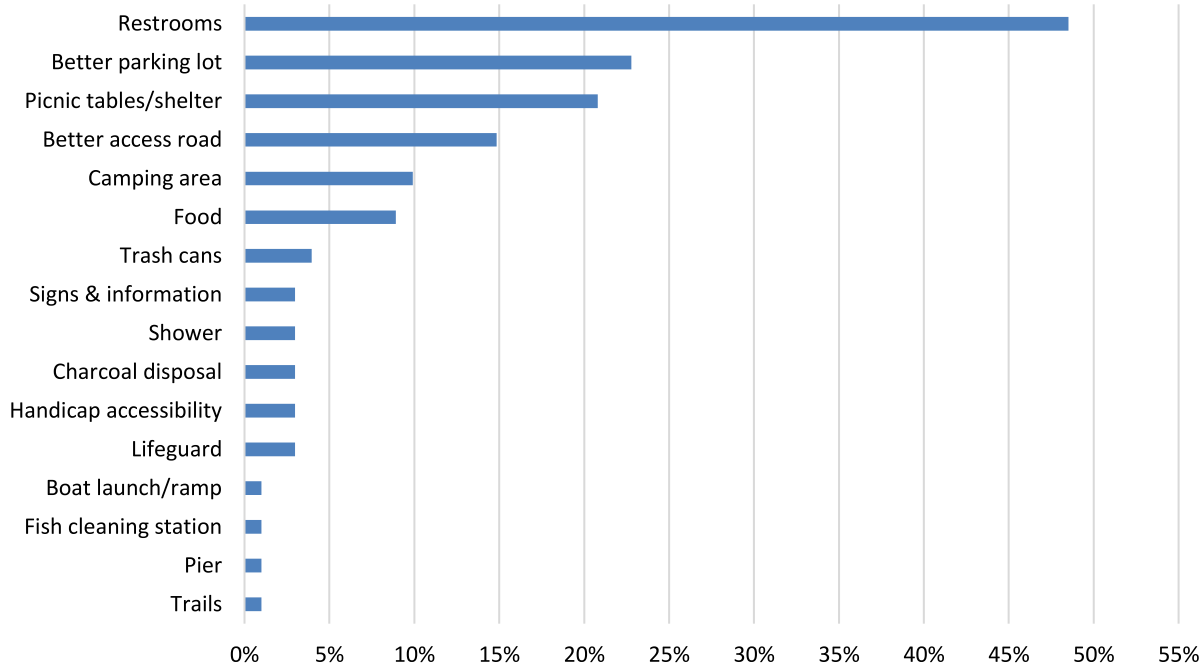


Figure 6. Recommended areas for improvement at Flat Rock Park

Better parking lot and access road also come in among the top five improvements needed. Twenty-three percent and fifteen percent, respectively, indicate the parking lot and access road could be improved by increasing the capacity to accommodate the traffic as well as the need for general maintenance of the surface.

The last two improvements target visitor comfort during their time at Flat Rock Park. Twenty-one percent would like to see more picnic tables and/or shelters at Flat Rock Park. Ten percent would like to see a camping area at Flat Rock Park.

Discussion

Over the course of 2019, Kleinschmidt and Southwick Associates worked collaboratively to estimate utilization originating from twelve target sites around Lake Harris in Alabama. Findings indicate that hundreds of thousands of recreational days spent enjoying the lake are associated with those sites. Overall levels of satisfaction with these sites are high, but addressing improvements raised have the potential to drive those satisfaction levels higher.

Reference

Alabama Power Company. (2018). Recreational Evaluation Study Plan: R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2628). Prepared by Alabama Power Company, Birmingham, AL.

Appendix

Lake Harris Public Access Questionnaires: Boat Ramp-Write-in improvements

The verbatim responses of respondents to data clerks are provided below: [15]

Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp

A place to have picnic with shade on top-a pavilion would be nice.
Bath houses (maybe for the ladies)
Big hole in ramp-huge
Bumpers on dock are gone-need replacing. Damages boats
by ramp-can't see
Cameras (security)
Cameras/more lights
Can't see at ramp in early am/pm late.
Clear off land
Clear out area around the old road.
Crew to clean up
Definitely need night lights especially since they lowered the water and there has been past damages and I don't' want to get more.
Drink machines
Drinking water
Driver's side-going down is breaking up.
Extend ramp farther out into lake on 48. Go creek side so it would not harm boats
Fix light.
Fix pot holes in road leading into boat area
Fix the lights for night time fishing. Cannot see anything.
Floating pier
Grills and tables in shaded area
Hunk out of left side of boat ramp
Info pamphlets
Just a little more light for night fishing
Just fix the cracks in the ramp.
Launch needs to be wider/yellow line
Launch needs work
Launch: Big hole in middle
Lighting is terrible at night
Lights don't always work
Lights for night fishing
Maintenance
More lighting in the parking area for night fishing.
More lighting in the parking area, especially for night.
More lighting--can't see
More parking at all ramps
Need another pier because the crowding is overwhelming

[15] No survey responses were collected at Wedowee South Marine and the R.L. Harris Management Area.

Need lighting for night fishing.
Need more lights and patrolling to make sure other visitors don't shoot out lights.
Need more patrolling. When we dock and go out to the water, thieves come and rob the trucks.
Need night lights to come on
Need pole at dock. Very dark.
Need to fix light by the ramp and put some more
Need trash cans. People litter too much.
Need wider road coming into boat area
Night light at ramp, especially for night fishing
No glass policy
No room to park when tournaments is happening.
Patrolling to keep kids from partying and defacing property. They have no patrolling out here and someone gonna get hurt.
Pavilion for shade
Pavilion with BBQ grills
Police or game warden patrol more often
Police or game warden patrol more often.
Primitive campground to set up tents
Ramp has a whole in the middle of it. Can cause some serious damage.
Repairs needed soon.
Restrooms, especially when you have children
Safety boys are all damaged/gone. Needs to be fixed ASAP.
Some grills to cook our fish after we catch.
Surveillance
Swim area
Swimming area
Tent camping would be great.
Too many times I come to fish at night and the night light doesn't work.
Trash cans need attention at times
Trash is disgusting. Picks up all the time.
When Flat Rock closes & no working restroom at the dam. Ladies need a restroom
When the water is down, the ramp needs repairing
When there is a tournament, parking is awful.
Widen and pave the roads. Too many potholes.
Wider/double launch
Yellow line on launch

Crescent Crest boat ramp

10 limit on fish/drop limit down. Too many going out.
Beach area. Life guards
Been telling Shelia for years that bathrooms are needed at EVERY spot. Wife won't come to this lake with me because no bathrooms.
Cameras

Don't drop the water level so fast and before the season gests good and cold
Extend ramps so don't drop of concrete and mess up boats
Keep water level up. 6ft should be plenty for shoreline maintenance & flood control
Launch needs repairs big time.
Launch: line, fix
Launch: yellow line down middle
Lighting needs to be checked at various ramps
Longer ramps for winter (water drop)
Lower end of ramp is rough
Maintenance
More hooks to tie onto
More lighting especially at the ramp!
More lights
More parking spaces
More parking spaces.
Need better/longer ramp. Tough on trailers.
need something to hold onto when exiting boat. Fell in.
No wake zone. Hard to dock.
Parking lot could be extended some
Pavilion/grill
Pole or something to site in on ramp. Its at a strange angle. Need something.
Pot holes on road (County 240)
Repairs needed on left side.
Replace buoys on hazard buoys because people will mess up their boat.
would be great if they can smooth out area away from ramp and pier and open it up a little allowing a more accessible route for swimming.

Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp

A little cleaning
Bait supplies nearby
Benches
Better lights for night boaters.
Better pick up/cleaning debris
Boat gas station
Boat ramp could be better accessible. Need to be cleared around area.
Bridge across on foot
Can't sure ramp for pontoon because water too low.
Changing station
Clean debris
Clean major stump debris way from boat ramp
Clean tree logs from around the ramp.

Cleanup debris
Cleanup/maintenance
Clear debris
Debris in water-comes down in the river
Debris needs removed
Driftwood on boat ramp.
dummy cameras
Just need a little cleaning around ramp
Keep logs clean from ramp area
Large parking lot
Larger ramp
Life preserver requirement need to be enforced.
Lighting around deck area, for night fishing
Logs and debris needs to be clean
Logs are in the water. So large and long-someone can get hurt.
Logs need to be cleaned from around ramp area
Logs need to be cleaned up
Logs need to be cleared periodically
Longer dock
Maintain cleanliness
Maintenance
Maintenance
Maintenance & debris removal
Maintenance and trash collection
Maintenance crew
Maintenance team
Make public aware of no wake zone
Metal dock
More security at ramps for theft, etc.
Need a bathroom for the ladies.
Need area for kids to swim.
Need debris cleaned up along shoreline
Need extension when water is down
Need light around ramp for night boating
Need light around ramp area for early morning/late night fishing
Need more bumper around the pier to prevent fishing boat to knock around so much.
No wake zone needs more enforcement
No wake zones need to be explained and enforced
Playground
Really need cleaning around ramp. Launching is great but ya take a big risk.
Removal of driftwood
Remove debris
Remove debris
Remove debris
Remove debris and driftwood.

Remove debris and trash when water goes down
Remove debris/maintenance/cleanup needed
Remove floating trash and debris around ramp
restaurants
Security
Site needs to be cleaned up
Someone needs to bring a tractor to remove debris
someone to help cleanup
Stop dropping the water so much-messes with the fishing
Swimmers in way of launching
The lake is too beautiful for the company not to keep the ramp area clean.
This is the only ramp maybe another where they won't clean up
Too many logs in the water is a big problem.
Water debris is dangerous
Water level needs to stay up longer
Wood debris and trash all over

Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp

A little wider and more parking.
Another boat launch/ramp
At night can't see corners, need guide/reflectors to back down ramp
Better lighting
Better parking-more parking areas
Better supervision
Better/reliable lighting--wasn't working Wednesday
Bigger areas for parking especially during tournament
Bigger boat ramp
Bigger docks & bathrooms
Bigger launch for tournaments
Bigger parking lot
Bigger parking lot
Bigger ramp
Bigger/better docks
Bigger/more parking lot
Bumpers on dock need replacing
Cameras/lights-more & working
Campsites
Changing room
Clean geese feces
Clear trees out across the street
Drink machine/hot dog stand
Electric wheelchair
Eventual ramp repair

Extend no wake point
Extremely dangerous parking lot
Fishing dock for fishers only.
Fix concrete on ramp
Fix light ramp
Fix lighting
Get rid of wake boats/big boats
Just a little more parking during fishing tournament.
Launch: yellow stripe denoting 2 ramps
Less steep launch
Light are out-fix ASAP
Light at the ramp is out. Please fix.
Lights in restroom
Lights not working
Lights on buoys/banks
Light for ramp before daybreak and night fishing.
Line down center of launch
Little more parking room
Little wash area to cool down once off water and rinse sand.
Live bait/worm machine
Longer Pier
Maintenance
Make ramp longer for 2 boats to launch
Mark the high spots on the water better
Mega ramp needed. Too many
More parking/bigger parking lot
More definition on ramp lines
More grip on boat ramp for wintertime.
More lighting
More parking is needed. Tournaments suffer
More parking
More parking
More parking
More parking
More parking
More parking especially during…
More parking needed
More parking please
More parking space.
More parking spaces
More parking, bigger lot
More Parking-don't even have to pave it. Esp. on tournaments days-across street would be perfect.
More people watching for lake violations
More surveillance in parking lot

More/bigger launch
More/expanded parking is a must!
Need fishing dock just for shore fishing
Need more parking spaces for trailers
Need more parking, especially during tournament
Need T at end of dock so more boats can come to tie up
Needs a turn around
Needs restocking-shad/blueback
Not enough parking at 48.
Observe and expand no wake zone
open bathrooms
Open restrooms
Open restrooms please
Open restrooms please
Open those bathrooms
Parking lot could be greatly improved. Today's tournament is a small group & parking is so dangerous on the street, getting boats in, then parking is a nightmare
Parking lot needs to be bigger, especially during tournaments.
Parking lot: Big/yellow line
Parking not near big enough
Parking on weekends are too much
Parking: nice to have big tournament parking
Patrolling to secure
Pavilions for fishers
Plastic around the guardrails on the dock
Porta potty
Porta potty
Porta potty
Ramp etiquette
Ramp needs to be wider
Really need night lights when putting boat in early.
Recycling
Recycling containers that stay locked
Restaurant/bar
Restrooms at every site
Restrooms: fix the foundation
Rubber coming off dock on left
second drive in
Security
Security or cameras at night for parking area.
Service and keep docks up to date. Bumpers are tearing up the boat.
Signage for icy walkway/traction
Sign-caution lights on Hwy 48.
Snack and drink machines
Stock the lake!!

The markers separating the boast when launching needs to be better defined
Tiki bar
Unisex bathrooms/more restrooms in general
Upkeep with rubber bumper at dock
Walking trail would be great
Weekends are horrible, esp. during tournaments--no where to park
Wider boat ramp
Wider boat ramp/more dock space
Wider ramp/more dock spaces.
Working lights
Working lights
Working lights
Working lights
Would love public camping sites.
Wrap the deck & paint lines going to dock

Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp

Picnic table would be nice with top for shading
Ramp area needs better attention

Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp

A better pull in area
An area to eat and night light would be nice, this way we can enjoy the park area at night time.
Better sitting area
Cameras: Brought kids up to walk once. Scared off by group of men.
Cigarette containers
Extend ADA capabilities
Extra summer
First time using this ramp-it could use a little more parking for cars with trailers and lights.
Floating boat dock
Floating boat ramp
Floating dock
Fox boat launch
Keep clean
Launch: Bigger/wider
Leaves make it slippery
Lighting around boat ramp for night boating

Lighting around boat ramp for night time boating
Lighting for early launching and night fishing.
Lights around boat ramp for evening boating
Lights around boat ramp
Lights for night fishing
make ramp a little longer for 2 boats to land and/or launch
Map layout for bird trail
Map on trail
map/paper maps/better detail
Maps
Mile marker sign for trail
More boat ramps further down on lake
More information on long walk. More trail information.
More space for parking cares
Maps
Mile marker sign for trail
More boat ramps further down on lake
More information on long walk. More trail information.
More space for parking cares
Need access to swim in lake/where handicap sign are
Need bathroom especially for swimmers and people walking through trail
Need light around ramp area because its dark early in the morning and its goona start getting dark earlier in the late afternoon.
need light to see ramp at night
Need lighting for night time boating
Need lights surrounding dock at night time-its too dark when trying to launch of dock at night.
Need more space on lot around ramp
Not enough lighting at night--need more lights.
Open campgrounds would be awesome.
Open up parking lot-need more space
paper maps
Patrolling. People use area as hang out. Need marina patrol to frequent sites to maintain order.
Public swimming area at site
Ram needs extension. When water is down, ramp is not long enough.
Shade for handicap
Shaded areas
swimming location
There are no lights!
Trail markers (distance)

Lonnie White Boat Ramp

10 more feet out on ramp in wintertime.
a wall to block current at launch ramp to keep boat from thrashing/going wrong
Access: Big hole-get stuck
Another pier
APCO clearing of timber never happened. The "resort" attempt was only time. Marina is a joke. Complete water of res. & broken promises.
Better enforcement of wake boats/skis.
Better parking area for safety. Trailers sticking out past parking area.
Big yellow stripe down launch ramp
Bigger parking lot
Boat ramp is too steep
Boating rules on sign.
Cameras for safety when just walking
Critter cams & catching illegal things
End of ramp too shallow
Enforcement of speed.
even both brush areas about 20 feet from wood line, giving dual parking on both sides
Fix hole & extend ramp
Hole at end of concrete on ramp needs fixing.
Hole in ramp/ramp is short when water is down
Launch: Fix big hole
Launch: Fix hole please
Lighting: More near ramp
Longer ramp when water drops. Unusable for longer fishing boats. Have seen trailers break. Need ramp like 48.
Maintenance
Maintenance crew
Make boat ramp road not have a stop sign for trucks having heavier loads
Make parking area wider for trailers
Make roadway wider for parking boat trailers
Need bathrooms for visitors
Need more room to park trailers. Parking spaces too narrow
Need more room/space
Needs a ladies room
One of lights shines in eyes
Open spaces for parking and repaint parking lines for more definition.
Open up under brush for visibility with surrounding residents
Parking spaces need to be wider.
Ramp needs up keep work done!
Sometimes can't get out of parking lot
T-dock next to pier to be a help when multiple boats are docking.
Trash in lake and boat ramp

Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform

Add some shady spots
Bigger sitting area
Bigger/longer area
Boat ramp
Built-in binoculars for public use
Cameras to monitor behavior
Cleaning detail to pick up garbage around fishing pier
Dead fish. Need to release more water
Drench it. There is steel sticking out.
Drinking fountain
Fix the restrooms
Functioning & opening
Get that bathroom up and running
Handicap access fishing platform closer to platform
Indestructible recycling bins. General maintenance.
kayaking allowed. Block off dangerous areas maybe
Light doesn't come on at night
Lights are out and people aren't taking trash
Lights not on during night to see to fish
More benches & shade of some sort
more fish/more accurate release times
More maintenance cleaning the dam
More shade/shelter
Notification at site of when water is released (time clock) or time posted
Open restrooms
Open restrooms
Path leading to water
Pavilion for shade
Pavilion with tables and benches for shade
Pier on opposite
Please fix the bathroom
Recycle bins/someone to pick up trash and empty trash cans
Roof or partial shade roof for fishing platform
Safe path to the shoreline
Security/someone to patrol
Shade of some sort, something to cut the sun.
Shade pavilion
Shade pavilion down on pier.
Shade pavilions
Shade/pavilion
Shelter during sudden weather shift (something to get under)
Signs for info on water release.
Signs that say pack it in and pack it out/ enforce littering violations

Trash barrel or pick up trash.
vending machines
Water faucet
Water faucet
water fountain

Swagg Boat Ramp

A place (area) for children
Allow us to swim-better access to water to allow for this
Area with sand for swimmers
Back of drive thru where you make turn toward ramp has a big dip in it and I'm afraid its gonna mess up my boat. Needs to be graded and extended good enough for boats to make that turn.
Better parking area for truck and trailer.
Bump when turning around, the road is really bad, it can mess up equipment and we spend a lot of money on our equipment.
Curve needs more room for the boat trailers.
Expand ramp for winder months
Extend the ramp when the cold season come in because of the low water level of the lake.
Fix parking area to prevent accidents. Needs to be paved.
Fix parking lot grounds
Fix pot holes
fresh water spout
Hole in curve needs patching on the far side of parking lot.
Hole on backside of parking lot. It's hard to make a turn with boat because it is narrows and there is a hole.
Kayak rentals
Ladder on dock
landing needs work. Holes making difficult to launch/land
Light is out.
Longer ramp
Maintenance
Maintenance
Need longer boat ramp
Need some shaded areas like a cook out shed
Need structured bathroom
Need to fix pot hole around turn in parkway.
Parking lot needs to be paved and smoothed out
Pothole in parking lot
Ramp needs fixing when water goes down
Really need bathrooms
Restock the lake with fish
restrooms for women and children
Road needs to be widened coming into the park.
Swimming area

swimming area with slide for kids
The curve needs to be not so sharp
The road in the curve from top to bottom needs to be wider.
Too shallow at ramp-at times cant' put boat in due to being too shallow.
Turn at top of hill makes it difficult to turn boat. Needs to be widened.
When water goes down in winter, can't launch our boat
When water is down the ramp is not long enough to launch boats
Winter ramps needs to be extended ~40fs, water is too low.

Lake Harris Public Access Questionnaires: Flat Rock Park Improvements-Write-in answers

The verbatim responses of respondents to data clerks are provided below:

Air pump station for floats
Alcohol allowed within reason
Allow pets or have designated area for pets to be able to run and play
Ant repellant
Bathroom closer to picnic area.
Bathrooms closer to pavilions area
Beach
Bench broke on pavilion on left side of bench area
Better parking
Better parking inside gate
Better restrooms
Better security
Big pavilions on far end. Allow dogs.
Bigger pavilions
Cameras
Campground over by fishing pier at Flat Rock
Camping spots
Canopy for shade
Charge admission
Clean beer cans out of water
Closer bathrooms to end at sandbar
Closer bathrooms to the sandbar, even if porta potty.
Closer restroom to end of rock
Concessions/Ice machine
Drink machine/vending
Earlier gate time for fishing area
Easier access to water for wheelchair
Extra bathroom
First aid stand
Fishing-side bathroom

Flat road
Flatten out road
Flatter in the middle where you drive.
Hammocks
Handicap accessibility
Handicap accessibility
Hire security
Holiday/busy weekends need a limit for people
Ice machine
Larger pavilion & closer bathroom
Larger pavilions
Larger pavilions would be nice
Life guard
Lifeguard/shelter
Lifeguards
Make walk shorter to end of rock
Make wooden trail/make walking easier.
More or bigger pavilions across park
More bathrooms
More parking available for afternoon
More picnic areas at sand bar area
More/larger pavilions
Of rock parking-lower vehicles
Pavilions
Pets allowed
place to park boat
Playground
Playground for kids
Porta potty near sand bard end
Porta potty on other side
Portapotty at end of rock for easier accessibility
Power at pavilions or a charging station
Properly disposing of coals, causing fire & accidents. Child burned foot on coals
Ramp/wheel chair access to water
Rest rooms on other side
Restroom inside gate
Restroom on other side of park
Restroom on rock
Restroom upkeep. Specifically soap.
Restroom upkeep. Specifically soap.
Restrooms at the end. Even portapotty so we don’t' have to walk all the way up front when at the sandbar
Restrooms on other side of park
More out on the rock at far end.
Rinse off shower heads

Road improvement
Seating
shade/coverage
Shower house
shower to rinse off after swimming
Signs for drop-off in swimming area
Smoother drive/entry
Soap in bathroom
Some place to dump charcoal
Somewhere to dump charcoal ashes
Tables closer to water
Telescope
To end of island
trash pick up
Trim grass & cut some of the plants
Vending machine, all on the other end of park.
Vending machines/food truck/etc.
Vendors
Water fountain
Water fountain
Water fountains
Water fountains/soda machines
Water slide
Would be nice to have picnic tables

Lake Harris Public Access Questionnaires: General open-ended comments

The verbatim responses of respondents to data clerks are provided below:

Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp

"Leave it alone". Likes it as is unless its crowded.
30 kids out yesterday all over pier and ramp swimming and carrying on bad-other than that here is the best boat ramp.
A lot of boats on water speeding and kicking up waves, not good for fish boats. If other boats obeyed rules & regs, wouldn't have so many accidents
All parking all boat ramps. Limited parking limits use by his son's highschool fishing team and their tournaments.
Beautiful day for the water. We caught 20 fish. Great lake.
Been coming to this lake long time. Keep up the good work.
Best place to launch-not crowded and we don't get the wild bunch over here.
Bumpers at Swagg are also in need of repair ASAP.
Can't see to put in when come crappie fishing esp.
Could use some patrolling-had girlfriends purse stolen up here. Can't come alone.
Everything is great for canoeing. We love this lake!!
Everything is great, just need night lights
Everything is great. They cleaned it up real good.
Everything today was great
Everything was fine and the water level was good too. Good fishing.
Everything was great
Everything was wonderful. Easy access getting into water. Great day!!
First time here. Really nice lake.
First time to lake
Fishing was great today. Ramp is fine.
Flashing lights on the buoys would be excellent. Make our boating lives easier.
Flat Rock Park closed already. More fishing areas. Toilets at dam closed.
Flat Rock-Winter months leave the fish side open for day use.
Goes to Swagg and Foster's Bridge and they are OK.
Great day for the water! Boat ramp is nice, not too crowded
Great lake-the best.
Haven't been here in years, decided to go fishing on day off. They built it up nice!
High spot hazards.
Hwy 48, too many tournaments. They take over. It's overcrowded.
Hwy 48--too many tournaments. They take over. It's overcrowded.
I fish out here but when I work I come for lunch--its nice.
I live in Estaboga and been coming for years. They really fixed the place up good but don't cut down no more trees.
I only came to swim. Its quiet and not much activity some days
I used to come out here when I was a kid-they fixed this area up real nice

Improvements: Bench with covering to have lunch. Need bathrooms and someone to keep park clean.
It is lovely all over the lake area.
Its nice but not enough amenities. Specifically in the more remote sites.
I've no complaints. This is the only place I launch. Bathrooms would be great for girl grandkids.
Just move here from GA. Love so far.
Keep Flat Rock open longer. Would have been nice if the kids could have gone there today.
Keep up the great work!
Kept clean…good place to bring the kids
Lighting was perfect earlier this morning. Everything was nice.
Lights are out a lot. Takes forever to get fixed.
Lights at Swagg don't work. One has been out since last year.
Like it.
Like it.
Looking forward to good fishing-great ramp
Love all of it. Fireworks are amazing at Flat Rock.
Love it here!
Love it! Wish could limit jet skis, etc. Too much wake boating too. Its terrible. No respect for others. Need more patrolling.
Love Lake Wedowee!
Love the lake!
Love this lake. I raised my whole family on it.
Need fish attractant. Willow grass would be perfect. Also great for erosion.
Need lights for Little Fox-very dark! Can't see to put in/take out.
Need to make dock over at Little Fox a floater like this one.
Need to open back up the bathrooms at dam
Never been to this site before but it looks great. Great day for the water.
Nice & clean is why we come.
Nice boat ramp
Nice boat ramp.
Nice!!
no
No
No, all good.
No. Good shape & clean. One of the better lakes around.
Not much fish in the summer
No-we fully enjoy Lake Wedowee
Our first time here, really nice lake.
Out of state people need a boater's license. Hwy 48 is too crowded. Jet skis drive dangerously. Some people were jet skiing at the dam. The water there is only a few feet.
People are swimming too close to the dock and I'm afraid some might get hurt.
People not following rules. People swim and fish from floating dock and won't move
Perfect for launching and not too crowded.
Ramp is good. Great day for father & son fishing. Not too crowded.

Really nice boat ramps.

Restocked. Police it more. Lunatics don't understand the dangers here. Too compact of a lake to have so many of the leisurers creating safety hazards.

Sincerely wish wouldn't let water up and down. When they do, crappie are decimated b/c after lay eggs, water level changes and eggs won't hatch.

Swagg-ramp needs extended

Swimmers area huge problem here. Refuse to move to allow boaters in/out. Swimming/parking/laying out on ramp-WILL not move. If you mention to them, you find damage to your property when come back.

The best place ever!! Absolutely no problems here.

There is a hole in the ram when water goes down to shallow. Please fix that hole.

They called Flat Rock to see if it was open. They were told yes. It was closed. Clerk advised it is only open the weekends until end of summer due to low attendance.

This is the perfect spot.

Too many boats at 48

Used to like Flat Rock. Don't go often anymore. Too many people causing trouble. We have babies (grandkids) and we just get run over.

Very nice here

Very upset about the swimmers as well. Buoys are biggest problem.

Visitor stated there were young men drinking on the pier and laying out on the pier. When visitor and her family were walking the pier, getting off the boat, they had to step over young men that were drunk. Visitor urges enforcement by park to prevent.

Wakeboards are awful. Keep bigger boats & skiers to main area-safety. Wish would return limits to harvest.

Was looking for Flat Rock but was closed.

We love it here

We love it here.

We love to fish here. We fish all the way through January.

We pick up a lot of trash and would live to see a bigger effort in that regard.

We were trying to go to Flat Rock but this one is nice too!!

When it gets real hot out here, it smells like a cesspool. We need a bathroom cuz people are going everywhere.

When water down low, its got some holes in ramp on right hand side. But this ramp is one of the best.

Would like to see more trash cans in all the lake sites

Crescent Crest Boat Ramp

48 Bridge needs better parking.

"The deal" with no wake needs to be taken care of. He said, "They'll know what I'm talking about" & marched off

All ramps need trash cans.

An area for boats to go in and one area to go into for swimming-this area is one of the clearest and not too crowded.

Bathrooms at each launch would be

Been fishing here since before they backed it up. Beautiful here. Please do something to encourage fish populations

Best lake!
Better parking especially at Hwy 48. There were 6 tournaments and parking was insane.
Bottom of ramp has a steep drop off here at Crescent Crest
Crappie pops are down seriously. Please look into this-need these fish down here.
Everything is fine other than needing a bathroom.
Excellent lake to fish
First time here. So far, love it!
Flat Rock is our favorite place.
Great experience
Have home nearby-very convenient-could put pier out a little longer (extended).
It is clean and nice
It is pretty
Its fine, convenient, and not too crowded.
Its good.
Just bought the boat so this is our first time with those one-but we love this area.
Keep it clean!
Keep up good work.
Keep up the great work!
Kept very clean-love it.
Lake is raised when fish are spawning and that causes loss of fish by bigger fish eating eggs.
Love it! Worth the drive!
Love the cleanliness. Appreciate the people who make the lake a great place!
Love the lake
Love this site-Perfect!
Low points…buoys. Regulate the big boats, damaging the sea walls and docks.
More boat ramps for lake
Need bathrooms @ 48. All the rest don't--go into the woods. Wake boats are becoming serious safety problem. GA visitors don't have to take boating class. Ridiculous.
Need more parking at 48 & others. Tournaments leave participants parking all over. Dangerous, especially when putting in.
Nice lake, really clean
Only boat ramp we use-Love it.
Only one has been to.
Open up land further down Lane-especially around tournament.
Other than that, it should be a great season for fishing.
Owns property 3 slots to right. Extremely pleased to have safety bouys back, even if only 2 instead of the 3 before. Point needs shallow marker. Used to have one. Need it back. Way too much traffic on lake-very dangerous with no patrols.
Please keep them clean.
Potable water at Dam (faucet)
Really enjoy the lake!
Really like it.
Restock fish would be great. Populations way down.

Road to Crescent Crest is nearly undriveable.

Swagg boat ramp-rocks came away from ramp & during low level water my trailer got stuck. I had to carry rocks over to get out.

Swagg-Rocks or something at ramp, especially when water is down. Extremely rough on trailers unusable in wintertime.

The parking could be wider-it's a public ramp but not too many parking spaces

The shoreline is getting smaller because of wake boats

There should be a stand here with poopa scuppa's for our doggies. Dogs are part of the family too.

They are all good.

This is one of the cleanest areas to come in for swimming and its not too crowded.

This is the best boat ramp.

This ramp is fine-my lake home is close by.

Tournaments are a problem at this location. Not enough space. All safety buoys are gone. APCO supposed to work we me to replace. Wake boats are completely out of control. Causing buoy loss. Need higher lake level in winter. Even 2ft would be enough.

Usually launch at 48-So glad to see the restrooms!

Very well kept up and beautiful

We come here to fish with our boat, swim. It's the best-nice & quite.

We love coming here!

We love it, lived here 20 years

We love the lake!

Winter time, they need to increase the water level. He is on Community Board working to improve lake conditions. He loves the lake and appreciates everything being done.

Yes. More fish.

Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform

Always enjoy coming.

APCO-Huge praise for new bathroom.

At Flat Rock Park, the fishing pier should be open longer.

At the Flat Rock Park, the fishing pier should be open longer.

Big Fox and Little Fox needs lights.

Enjoys coming here.

Everywhere I go is great.

First time here-so far so good!

First time, could have been better if there was more water

Fix the bathroom. Stopped to see the sites and can't use the bathroom-huge problem.

Fix walkway under 48 bridge so we can safely jump off.

Great place to fish!

He would love to actually catch something at this site.

I love the birding and the availability of the sight-seeing nature and area.

Improvements: Need to provide some sort of shade. Comments: First time I've been here. Would prefer to go someplace else. Not enough water released to be able to fish.

Its great, clean. Love its wheelchair accessible at Dam

Keep on keepin' on. APCO does a great job with the lake.

Leave Flat rock open while weather is hot!

Like it (all of the lake) a whole lot!

Love coming out here. Been here since 4am. It's a shame you can't keep out people who trash it. (points to graffiti & trash in river) People ruin things. This is the cleanest water around.

Love Flat Rock!

Love it, nice

Man stated he called to check on water release & was told 12-1pm. Boat ramps are good. However, it was only released from 12-12:05.

More fish/Open the bathroom.

More security at Flat Rock or close it down. Swimming is dangerous here.

Need fishing ramps for fishing only on the lake to try to stay out of the way of the boaters in/out.

New to area but likes the peacefulness

no

no comment

Not enough ramps vs people

People come out and trash the place

People come out at night drinking. Found 9mm casings here.

Previously interviewed. Reported that a car that just left had two men who trashed the area donw there at fishing platform.

Rated 10 because of new bathrooms. Gentleman said he poured cement for the dam then told me a story about good old days. Pleased with site.

The is a beautiful lake. Only rated it a 7 due to people leaving trash, but its not AL Power fault. People are ridiculous. We love area.

They were upset about nonfunctional bathrooms at this location.

Very clean

Very clean, the water is beautiful. One of the only lakes we keep fish from. Could really use working bathrooms.

Visit often, love the lake!

We came out early, fishing dock had a lot of garbage

Will come back.

Wish there was more spaces meant for enjoying the scene. Beautiful lake/river.

Work on automated phone system

Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp

1st time here-only down here to fish this lake.

48 is the best ramp on lake. Best lake in world. We pass by other ramps just to go here. This is 1 of only 2 lakes we eat fish out of.

All good
All good, love it!
All kept clean
Bathrooms at Lonnie White & Crescent Crest would be outstanding. Need to charge nonresidents a launch fee, pls!
Bathrooms made this so much better. Big hole at Lonnie White Ramp.
Be nice to have more public access on 431
Best ramp on the lake! Need that parking
Better parking all around. Keep the lights up!
Bigger fish.
Bigger parking lot-can't fit when tournaments are happening. Need another ramp so other boats can put in. Wake boats are dangerous-need size limit on.
Bigger ramps for allowance for bigger tournaments on the lake.
Boat ramp is good.
Buoys put back up
Could benefit from extending parking lot across the street or further back (clearing trees). Obviously the larger days are so much worse.
Crescent Crest-ramp broken on both sides just below waterline. Little Fox-needs lighting!! Otherwise great.
Crescent crest-Ramp has holes needs fixing.
Enforce laws and respect environment and community.
Enjoy the lake
Everything else is good.
Everything is fine, just need a bathroom.
Everything is fine.
Everything is nice.
Everything is okay.
Everything was fine
Everything was great.
Extremely excited about bathrooms.
Facilities could be improved at all sites
Few ramps need better access during cold weather
First time for my buddies from Annison and they're excited.
First time here, looking for some good fishing spots
First time visit to Lake Wedowee. Have heard from others its a beautiful-clean family lake. We shall see today.
Fish all the time!
Geese feces needs to be cleaned up.
Get trash cans!
Glad there are restrooms at 48.
Good place
Great area, love, clean, etc.
Hope it stays as is.
I think it is a great place.
Improvement: Fishing line return

Improvement: nets

Improvements: Clean animal feces around dock. Comments: Like the improvements that has been made in last couple of years. Just need some trash cans.

Improvements: floating timber; more parking. Comments: Swagg in winter is completely unusable. Ramp is higher than water

Improvements: swimming area

Improvements: Want water deeper

Improvements: Move the disabled spots to the middle 3 parking spots and patrol use of handicap spots by non-handicapped people.

In general a great place to fish! But on a tournament day, awful parking.

It's a good lake.

It's a great site. Needs serious thought to more parking-that's what puts at a 1

It's all good

It's beautiful.

Its good

Its great.

Jet ski rentals

Just bought a boat. First time here. Really impressed.

Keep docks in great shape. Water level is good.

Keep up the good work. More fish.

Keeping water level up longer is better.

Lake is the best one around

Launch fee. Fishing restock PLEASE

Like them. County does a good job at cleaning. Could be policed.

Limit on fish that the fishermen keep (crappie).

Lived here a long time. Like to see Alabama Power give back to the community.

Love it

Love it

Love it

Love it

Love it here-just bought plot-can't wait.

Love it out here. Y'all do a great job with this place and I understand why there aint no trash cans.

Love it! Moved to Wedowee last year from Atlanta. More peaceful & relaxing.

Love it.

Love it. Thankful AlaPower has resources to let us play in.

Love Lake Wedowee!

Love the bathrooms. Missing buoy near dam-VERY dangerous.

Love the free launch

Love the lake

Love the lake!

Love the lake!

Love the lake. Facilities are terrible. Cameras/lights needed. Had truck stolen, another was broken into, windows smashed.

Love the lake. Wish the areas had better parking for the fishing tournament folks.

Love the sights and the lake!

Love this boat ramp
Love this lake-CLEAN! Love bathrooms-please open soon!
Loves it here. Keep the trash out with police presence, specifically at 48 boat ramp.
Loves it.
Loves this lake
Loving bathrooms are here-wish open.
May just an additional light
Met my wife. Love coming to the lake!
More fish
More fish
More parking at Lonnie White. Lights at Little Fox
More parking at marina
More parking. Sometimes forced to park on side of highway
More restaurants
More water patrol (more law enforcement)
My first time here-fantastic!
Need bigger and more boat ramps
Need huge parking lot (mega)
Need lights fixed
Nice clear water-1st time.
No fish in lake
No lights at Big Fox Creek, resolve issue.
No, I'm glad they are set up the way you are. More parking.
On tournament days, use this lot for staging, parking is extremely limited. Please consider more.
Love restrooms-thanks for opening them.
Only used 48 twice-have a tourney here tomorrow-but really like it. Need more parking please.
Other than parking, everything is fine.
Other than restroom, everything is great.
Over fished
Parking is bad at 48! Needs improvement!
Parking-bigger please. Especially for these tournaments.
Please stock the lake. Wedowee Marine charges to launch and the ramp is too steep to pull vehicle up ramp.
Police presence at times, people observe the no-wake zone.
Police the littering
Porta potty would be nice
Pull more water with turbines
Ramp at Crescent Crest needs repairs.
Ramp is a 10, include parking it is a 0.
Real nice site.
Run a clean ship. The marina launch is a death trap. Can't get in/out safely at all.
Ski boats are a big problem.
So glad to see the bathrooms-will be happier when they are open.
Steep ramp with left side drop off
Stock the lake

Terrible parking!
Thank you for the bathrooms! Finally.
Thanks for opening bathrooms.
The area is very clean, I love it and intend on coming back again real soon. Just really need a bathroom as soon as possible.
The lighting needs to be better
The marina causes too much boat traffic.
The wake boats are interfering with the fishing boats. They are too heavy and big-has caused many accidents on the water.
There has been issues with cars being messed with while boaters on water.
They all need restrooms
They've improved over time.
Think all the ramps are pretty great, all together
This place is awesome
Too many big wake votes
Wake boats are destroying the whole lake. Washing the banks out. Authorities should check out-of-state boat licenses. Everyone should adhere to Alabama laws.
Want's a public ramp on Lay Lake on Talladega side.
Water's clean.
We have a tournament at Lonnie White tomorrow-can't put in there b/c of another. More parking all around would be amazing. Would have rated satisfaction a 6 based on parking alone.
We like it here. I'm happy with it.
We love it here. Bring church men down to lake for retreat.
We love it.
When there is a tournament, parking is dangerous
Wish the ramp was built on other side of the road. Please don't let it get any bigger. The site keeps the large tournaments out. Other lakes get completely fished out when that happens. We need to keep this clean & uncomplicated.
Wish the water didn't drop so soon!
Wonderful, new marina looks
Would like to see a boat ramp around old 431
Would rate it a 10 if the lights worked.

Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp

Improvements: permit swimming, dock needs ladder
Only ramp they use.
The best site
Very nice-peaceful and quite. Would be perfect and more people would come fi it had a pavilion

Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp

All pretty good.
All very well kept and maintained.
Bathrooms & trashcans. Looking forward to seeing the finished upgrade at site.
Best ramp ever-I bring my family down from Georgia and we stay on the camping grounds. Best time every.
Better spread out for fishing tournaments to avoid overcrowding.
Bird trail is heaven sent.
Comments: on the weekend, a lot of speeding on the lake.
Everything else is fine; but I like Little Fox out of the others most because its not too crowded
Everything here is wonderful.
Everything is okay--don't want to take away from swimming
First time here at Little Fox, loved it, didn't like the overcrowding. Not enough fish.
First time here.
First time. Really likes the trails.
Going to check out the trail
I grew up around the lake and love it. Just need bathrooms.
I just really enjoy it out here.
I love the benches that you can take a break while walking through the trails.
I use this ramp a lot-very quiet.
It is great, not crowded and its clean.
It's a great lake. Clean, coming for 13 years.
It's beautiful
Its beautiful, please clear the power line span.
Its nice and not crowded.
Just beautiful how they are fixing it up, this park area.
Little Fox is the best ramp, along with Big Fox.
Little Fox is the favorite
Little Fox would be perfect if it had a floating boat ramp. Its not too steep. Not too crowded.
Love it-really nice!
Love the boardwalk trail.
Love the improvements to Little Fox Creek!
Love the improvements!
Love the lake!
Love the lake. Lots cleaner than others we visit. We are from Georgia.
More public park areas-places on the lake you can camp.
Nice and clean!
Nice ramp.
Nice trail
On weekend nights, people hang out that are not here to launch boat. Its intimidating. Lighting might help. During the day, people use dock for other than boating and are in the way of launching & docking.
Our first time walking the trail-really nice!

Parking lights to take pictures of people cars when they are out with boats. Other people do a lot of littering around parking lots.

People need to clean up after themselves

Really like it. Use the trail a lot!

People trying to launch line up down access road in my yard-leaving damage. I come with my tractor & pull the rocks back up to the ramp. They roll out and leave a huge drop off-can damage trailers. Thank goodness APCo removed trashcans.

Site needs a floating dock. The water is almost too low to launch from dock.

Thankful

Thanks for ADA compliance. He is a wheelchair.

They had purses stolen of vehicles when coming in at night off the water.

This have changed so much. The marina has caused water pollution, problems for fish

This place is great!!

Using area like camp site, hard to land boat. Difficult to park trailer for boating because people using bird trail park in the boat parking area.

Was curious about the work being done at the site

We came for bird trail-it's fixed up really nice. Like to see what they have done.

We came from Georgia and this is the bet one-just would like some night lights because we spend the whole day out here.

We enjoy this ramp so much, its clean and conveniently located to everything we need. Not too crowded.

We love it here on this ramp

Would like to see more shade areas for fishing. Several handicap people fish here and would be easier for them if it were shaded some.

Lonnie White Boat Ramp

A little more parking spaces
Awesome
Beautiful
Beautiful lake, steep boating ramp, keep up the good work.
Beautiful lake, we love it.
Bright yellow/reflective lines where you can see baking boat up at night.
Crescent crest-needs ramp repair. Swagg-when water sown, ramp not long enough.
Dock is too wobbly, needs to be more sturdy.
Everything
Extending ramp out further here and at Crescent Crest would be amazing
First time here. Lake is very nice.
First time here-really clean!
Flat Rock: Restroom at sandbar for boaters.
Good fishing, not trashy
Hates it when too many people fishing on dock and won't move when pulling in boat. "But that is the way it is"
I like this ramp. It's not too crowded and it's clean.
I live on the lake--love it!
I love it. More bathrooms accessible to lake docks.
I think the lake is clean and very good!
If it had restroom, I would have rated it a 10.
Its clean. Wants to buy a lake house at Wedowee.
It's great, just need to open up parking area.
Logs, debris, garbage in lake. Expecting it to be cleaner
Lost her dock. Came away from shore line, stairs & all. Lost her boat, actually sank due to all the wake caused by people not respecting anything.
Love coming here. Clean. Safe.
Love it here.
Love Lonnie White and Foster's
Love that it is wide, lots of parking
Love the added Restrooms at 48.
Love the lake!
Love the lake. Lived on it all my life. Fish four days a week. Love that it is clean.
Love this place.
Love this ramp. Love everything about it.
Make parking area much wider for trucks turning trailers
More parking at Hwy 48
More patrols--big rec boats tearing it up.
My family and I love this area-not too crowded and very safe.
Need bigger signs and enforcement to keep the activity of the boats on the lake pleasant for everyone.
Nice, clean, beautiful.

One big ramp & parking area. This lake would take off then (popularity). Needs more vegetation to help game fish take off too. Lots of carp.

Only place for public access for those who can't afford it. Would like to see community effort to keep places cleaned up.

Parking at 48 is horrible. You have to back your boat in from highway to park.

Provides attachment of comments--concerned over wake damage and improper use of site in addition to above

Put bathrooms on area, a permanent structure

Really enjoy the clean lake!

Really liked seeing the restrooms at Hwy 48!

Restrooms at every site. Trash cans at all sites.

Roads need improvement

Study pier, this one moves too much with waves of water

This is a great boat ramp. We use it all the time.

This is a public ramp, some people act like it's private.

This is the best place for me. Homes are surrounding the lake and the people look out for my car when I'm out on the water.

This is the best place to come--the ramp is perfect and the water level is always right

Very clean, quite, not too crowded and convenient.

Very nice lake.

We come from University of Georgia. Its always nice here.

We drive a ways to get here. Have a lake about 10 minutes from home. But we love it here. Clean!

We enjoy coming here because it is clean!

We have our lake house here. Best time and ramp is perfect.

We use this ramp all the time--It's convenient and clean

Well maintained.

When we have tournaments, parking is terrible

Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp

Adequate ramps! Love going to Hwy 48. Keep it up.
Another boat dock at Swagg
Boat ramp on 48 is always crowded and then you come to these other ramps and the conditions are not good.
Debris and trash needs removal
doesn't remember zip code
Everything is great!!
Give workers a pay raise
Great boat ramp
Great ramp-great fishing. Bathroom would make it perfect
Hwy 48 needs a much bigger parking lot. Tournaments need own dock
Hwy 48 ramp bigger with better parking. Too crowded when there are tournaments.
I enjoy it!
I like it cuz its not too busy.
I live close to here so I like if for that but someone gonna get hurt on those logs one day
I love this spot. Life 12 miles from here. Its perfect except for people dumping trash.
I need more restrooms
I wish people would take better care of it.
Improvement: driftwood needs to be picked up. Esp. around boat ramp and dock. ALSO: Webpage--season opening like Flat Rock. Promote better. Webpage should have better information.
Improvement: Driftwood/tree tops
Improvements: Logs and debris in water need to be cleaned up (and on ramp).
Improvements: Would like to see the waters cleaned of debris Comment: Location was great for a boat launch
It's a great dock.
Keep it clean!!
Keep it clean!! Hire maintenance crew for all Alabama power owned sites.
Lake clarity due to rain
Leave water up
Lee's bridge needs lighting, too.
Left more water in lake during winter months. Why do the questionnaires if the company not doing anything about it.
Likes Lake Wedowee and lives close.
Love it!
Make it easier to fish on bank. Make more ADA accessible.
Need more parking spaces; water needs to be cleaned
Need to get rid of driftwood debris.
Need to keep winter pool up 2 ft higher in order to launch boat. Need to paint line on boat ramp as guideline to indicate level point.
Nice locations. Garbage is a problem.
Only one he has been to. Like the ramp because not too steep.
Other site they use other than at ?? Martin.
Prettiest lake around. Mentioned driftwood.

Safety first on the lake. Pleased they redid the floating dock (his nephew drowned under there). Happy with most everything else.

Similar improvements needed at other sites.

State should have a cleaning detail for the water; debris in the water can really be a safety issues especially to young children/adults not too experienced on the water

The ramp is convenient for me & family, we don't like when its too crowded. The conditions seem like its getting worse.

This ramp is good because its not crowded and nice and quiet.

Too many tree logs in the water. It can tear up the boats

Tractor to remove debris and logs. Clean up!!!

We like it-It's not too busy or crowded here.

We like the docks. Debris and logs could be maintained/removed. Wider loading ramp/cleaned up

We need more hotels for out of towners to come and fish

We need restrooms like Hwy 48 got.

We usually go to 48 bridge to launch. This one is a nice back-up.

Swagg Boat Ramp

After work this is where we come to get a swim in. This park area is not too busy with a lot of people and boats.

At the marina, the floating dock. The metal comes out over the floating device and can scratch your boats.

Beautiful lake.

Beautiful, been here 40+ years.

Been coming here for years. Love the area, they just need to keep it up.

Bigger docks! Better parking in general. Wake zone enforcement. Lake safety.

During winter time, ramp needs to be extended because the water is low. Area needs to be widened so we can park our truck and trailer-not enough room for parking.

Everything was nice. We brought new jet skis and we enjoyed them, the ramp, and the water.

Good swimming, not too many critters in water.

Great place to swim

I only came to fish and the fishing is good

I use this ramp all the time, I fix boats. It's the best. Only think the holes in the pavement where I need to turn needs fixing.

I used to live in Wedowee and all I could think about was the this lake. I enjoyed my swim.

I'll use the ramp but I don't park here. Ramp not too steep but parking lot is too narrow.

Improvements: Dock maintenance. Screws & bolts need tightening. Scraping the boats

Improvements: Hand rail for walkway because its so steep. Comments: Nice for walking out on deck in the morning/taking pictures. Boat ramp 48 needs larger parking space, dangerous for vehicles.

In winter time when water is down, the ramp is to short to launch our boats

Just started using it. Dam needs to be cleaned up. Lots of trash over there.
Like to fish when its raining. This dock is good one.
Lonnie White ramp also needs extending during winter months when water level is low.
Love coming here. Keep up the good work.
Love it!
Love it! From Iowa!
Love it-cleaner than other lakes they have visited
Love that the lake is so clean!
Love the lake!
Love the lake!
Love the lake! Very clean!
Love the lake. But when fishing the bigger boats don't have respect for the fishermen & ladies.
More swimming areas for kids besides flat rock
Nice lot. I enjoy it because its not crowded especially now.
No problem with this ramp, especially when not crowded.
No! Love it!
none
Not comfortable leaving my truck & trailer here, someone might hit and/or run
Only one she has been to, really likes it. Clean
Other than holes at the landing, no. Thanks for a great place.
Other than that it is great.
Other than that turn, this is the best one for me. Not crowded, convenient, and clean-parking is great!
Pothole in parking area makes it real tough trying to turn vehicle & boat around to park. Please fix it!! Also area where hole is, can be opened up some giving plenty of space when parking lot is crowded.
Really enjoy the lake!
Recreation sites are not for locals. I live 1/4 mile from lake all my life. I shouldn't have to go to flat rock to enjoy my lake. The sign says no swimming w/I 50 fee of launch. Fine. Give a little easier access a little further to let us.
Regular maintenance at all sites!
Thanks for having a beautiful and clean place for us to come to
The water needs to stay up. We couldn't put our boat in.
This ramp is nice and quite-not busy.
We like it. Not too crowded. Its great for our family.
We love it out here because its never too crowded. We fish, swim, and enjoy the lake.
We love the lake and this ramp is always nice. Not too crowded, specially in the morning.
Would like to see more of the restroom facilities like at Hwy 48 boat ramp.

Flat Rock Park

A beautiful lake!
A good get away from the house
Additional restrooms located in different area.
An additional restroom at Flat Rock & restrooms at boat ramps. Staff at Flat Rock are always accommodating boat dock.

Another rest room on the other side of park. Long walk. Comments: All well maintained. Impressed.
ATV should stay on the road where the rock and flowers are blooming. Other than that I love it here-this rock in its natural form is awesome!!
Bathrooms are clean.
Beautiful
Beautiful lake
Brochures to show where recreation sites are. Campgrounds (public) to attract people
Charge something at door
Clean, keep up the good work.
Cleaning up some of the granite area where cig butts. May no smoking at the park.
Complained about dog excrement around the park.
Concern over drop off in water, not everyone knows when swimming.
Everything is great
Everything is great.
Everything is perfect. We love it here.
Everything is wonderful.
First time at Lake Wedowee
First time here. Excellent, peaceful place for kids
First time here-looks good-seems like its gonna be a great day.
First time. Awesome.
Good job of keeping it up.
Good place worth the drive. Only complaint is the glass-broken glass.
Great place for big family to gather and enjoy the water.
Great place!
Great place, worth the drive.
Great!
I drive long way to enjoy beautiful lake for my family!
I enjoy it. Been coming here whole life. Many improvements.
Improvements: Boat dock, rest rooms closer to the end.
Improvements: more shade, better parking
Improvements: Bath rooms further into park
Improvements: remove boulders; more grills; not enough tables
It is very nice, comfortable, and for family
Its all great!
Its beautiful. 1st time here. Campsite at Flat Rock
It's gonna be a good day.
Its good
It's nice. First time out.
Just bought a summer home on lake this summer. Love it.
Just keep it going
Just moved here from Rhode Island. Love this recreation site.
Just moved in area. First time and here with family and it's a great park for family.
Keep it open.
Keep the gate open on the fishing side. More handicap accessible.

Land lease to individuals to put private RV's on.
Like how unique the rock is out here.
Like it just the way it is.
Like it the way it is. Glad it isn't commercialized
Like it.
Looks better than it used to.
Love coming here. She stated the kayak a lot and at most places you have to sign in.
Love it! Clean place, safe for family.
Love it! Great place for kids & family.
Love it, it is a blessing.
Love it, keep doing a great job!
Love it.
Love the lake
Love this park
More places for picnics, etc.
More sites
Need better parking, more pavilions
Need lifeguard/more security
Need more pavilions and more parking spaces
Need more pavilions and tables
Nice
Nice place to getaway!
Nice place.
No. Love it.
Nothing needs improvement. Do not take away the rock
One of the nicer lakes
Only place she goes. Likes it a lot better than closer lakes.
Safe for family. Love the natural beauty of site.
Sandy beachy, better lighting
Shouldn't make data clerks look like Game Wardens
Sometimes rock is slick when walking into the water.
Thank you for keeping it as nice as it was when I was a kid
The boat ramps need trashcans and maybe restrooms.
The site is beautiful, thank you.
They have been keeping park real nice.
They keep it clean.
This place is great for family.
Too much alcohol consumption on flat rock park
Unbelievable. AL Power is doing a great job here!
Very beautiful
Very clean and wonderful place.
Very nice
Very pretty. Kids had a blast!
Very pretty. Too many flies.
Very well kept.

We drive from Villa Rica, GA. Regular visitors here. Love the lake, great for our family.
We enjoy it. Coming for a long time from Craigford. Keep up the good work!
We like it, it would be better with a shade. It is pretty hot on the rock, burns my fair skin.
We love it here.
We love this park for family time.
Which they still had camping spots the way they used to. But, we enjoy the Rock-one of the reasons we bought our house right here.
Wish they'd allow us to drink beer.
Would help if Rock could be more level for lower vehicles

APPENDIX D

LAKE HARRIS PUBLIC ACCESS QUESTIONNAIRES ZIP CODE ANALYSIS

5/14/2020

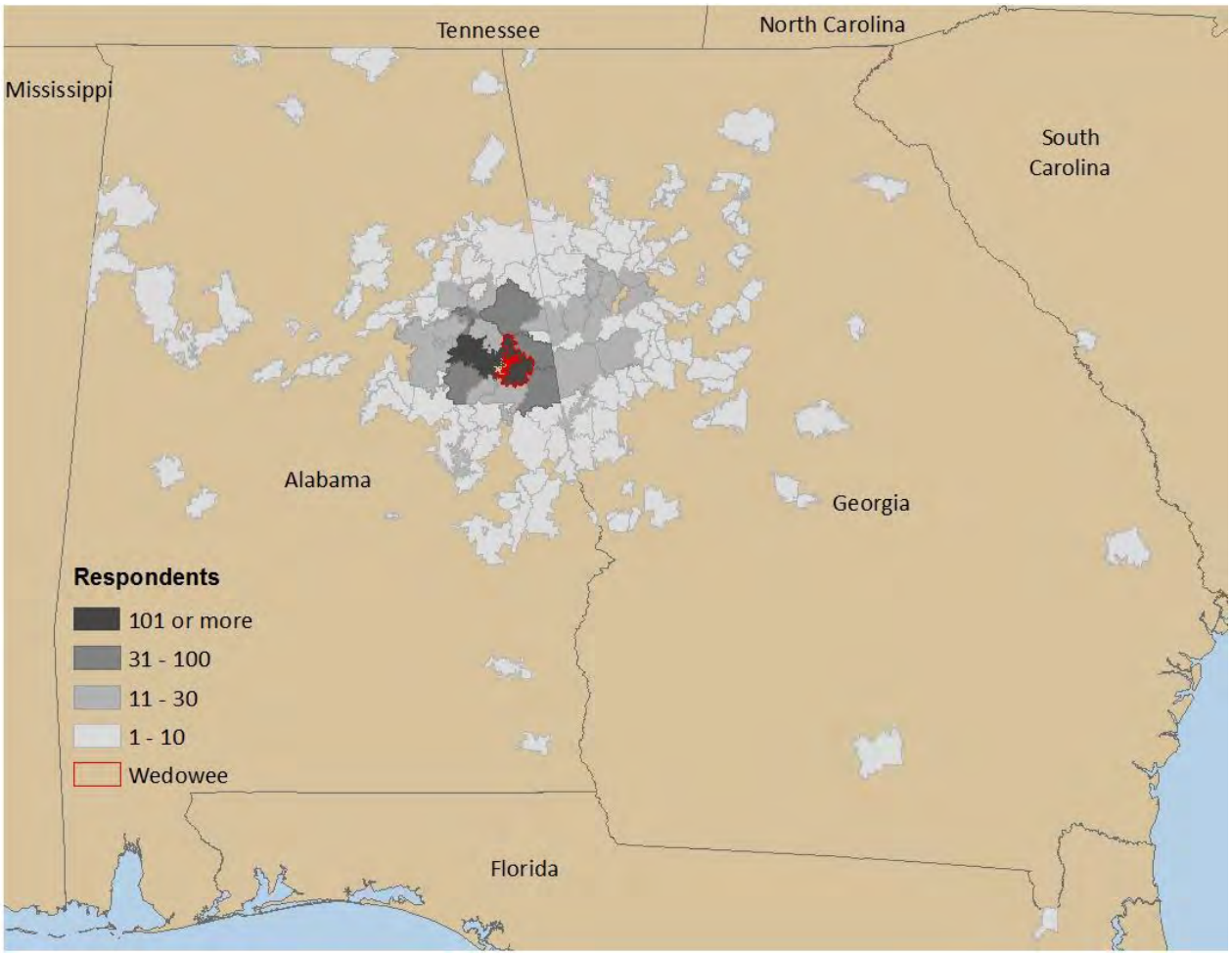
Lake Harris Public Access Questionnaires Zip Code Analysis



PO Box 6435 ■ Fernandina Beach, FL 32035 ■ Office (904) 277-9765

One the many goals of the Recreation Evaluation Study Plan (Study Plan) for the R. L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2628) was to gather interviews soliciting input from visitors to Lake Harris about their current and future recreational needs were conducted. Respondents were asked to share their zip codes as part of the survey.

Included in this brief document are: 1) a map of respondent's reported zip codes, focusing on Alabama and Georgia because these two states represent the majority of visitors and 2) frequency tables of zip codes separated into three groups-Alabama, Georgia, and all others.


Tennessee
North Carolina
Mississippi
South Carolina
Alabama
Georgia
Florida
Respondents
101 or more
31 - 100
11 - 30
1 - 10
Wedowee

Alabama

Total	**927**

Zip	Frequency	Zip	Frequency	Zip	Frequency
36266	203	36830	2	36303	1
36278	189	36855	2	36765	1
36251	68	35043	1	36801	1
36274	56	35044	1	36853	1
36280	51	35080	1	36867	1
36264	47	35111	1		
36203	34	35121	1		
36207	22	35125	1		
36276	21	35128	1		
36255	19	35146	1		
36258	18	35150	1		
36201	17	35151	1		
36268	16	35173	1		
35160	15	35176	1		
36206	11	35209	1		
36273	11	35224	1		
36256	8	35235	1		
36263	7	35555	1		
36863	7	35570	1		
36862	6	35579	1		
35072	5	35586	1		
35096	5	35610	1		
36260	4	35671	1		
36265	4	35750	1		
36267	4	35761	1		
36269	4	35903	1		
36277	4	35905	1		
36804	4	35906	1		
36205	3	35966	1		
36250	3	35967	1		
36832	3	36017	1		
36854	3	36020	1		
36861	3	36083	1		
35010	2	36088	1		
35124	2	36262	1		
35475	2	36270	1		
36271	2	36272	1		

Georgia			
Total	**334**		
Zip	**Frequency**	**Zip**	**Frequency**
30117	30	30064	1
30116	29	30082	1
30263	26	30094	1
30180	24	30101	1
30108	20	30124	1
30135	18	30125	1
30179	17	30126	1
30217	16	30140	1
30134	14	30145	1
30265	10	30178	1
30110	9	30204	1
30182	9	30213	1
30176	8	30215	1
30113	7	30220	1
30241	7	30230	1
30277	7	30248	1
30269	6	30251	1
30153	5	30256	1
30132	4	30259	1
30106	3	30296	1
30118	3	30307	1
30170	3	30317	1
30114	2	30329	1
30127	2	30349	1
30141	2	30415	1
30185	2	30533	1
30224	2	30625	1
30240	2	31008	1
30268	2	31032	1
30276	2	31639	1
30290	2	31801	1
30012	1	31807	1
30024	1	31822	1
30041	1	31833	1
30044	1	31907	1
30047	1		
30062	1		

Other states

Total	**61**

Zip	Frequency	Zip	Frequency
30112	7	36780	1
30157	4	36827	1
30119	2	37018	1
36254	2	42503	1
36261	2	43607	1
36284	2	47670	1
36766	2	50849	1
27248	1	53105	1
29842	1	61350	1
30028	1	66749	1
30123	1		
30133	1		
30186	1		
30267	1		
30279	1		
30282	1		
30299	1		
30301	1		
30302	1		
30640	1		
30768	1		
30921	1		
31104	1		
32063	1		
32078	1		
32266	1		
33304	1		
34667	1		
35082	1		
35251	1		
36217	1		
36243	1		
36252	1		
36257	1		
36275	1		
36281	1		
36288	1		

APPENDIX E

DOWNSTREAM TALLAPOOSA RIVER PUBLIC ACCESS USER COUNT AND SURVEY

Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report



Prepared for Kleinschmidt Associates
& Alabama Power
By
Dr. Kevin M. Hunt
Private Consultant

Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report

Conducted by:

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Private Consultant
Starkville, Mississippi

for

Kleinschmidt Associates
and
Alabama Power
Birmingham, Alabama

May 2020

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KMH

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1.0 Introduction

Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power) initiated the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the 135-megawatt (MW) R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (Harris Project), FERC Project No. 2628 in 2018. The Harris Project consists of a dam, spillway, powerhouse, and those lands and waters necessary for the operation of the hydroelectric project and enhancement and protection of environmental resources. As part of the relicensing effort, Alabama Power is conducting a Recreation Evaluation study to describe the existing Harris Project recreation facilities, discuss current and future use estimates, and evaluate the need for additional recreational facilities at the Harris Project in the future. The study has two main components: recreational use of the Harris Project (i.e., Lake Harris and public lands upstream of the dam) and recreational use of the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam. This report focuses on the latter.

1.1 Study Goals & Objective

The primary goal of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Study was to determine how instream flow affected recreational users and their activity in the study area from May through October 2019. Recreational user groups included bank and boat (primarily canoe/kayak) anglers, kayakers, canoers, recreational boaters, float tube users, and those who may be using public access points for swimming. To achieve this goal, this study included four objectives:

1) Calculate total visitation (effort) and effort levels by recreational user groups using public access sites in the study area during this period,

2) Measure recreational users' attitudes/perceptions about instream flow (i.e., water level) and trip satisfaction in the study area on the day they were intercepted during the study period,

3) Obtain catch information from recreational anglers intercepted during this period, and

4) Use information collected from Objectives 1-3 and precise information on instream flow provided by Alabama Power to determine how water level affected a) overall effort, b) effort by each user group, c) perception of instream flow and trip satisfaction by user group, and d) species of fish targeted, caught, and retained by anglers.

1.2 Study Area

The Harold Banks Canoe Trail (HBCT) on the Tallapoosa River, Alabama, and two sections of the Tallapoosa River immediately upstream from HBCT were the study area for this project (Appendix A). The HBCT includes the stretch of river from Bibby's Ferry boat ramp to Jaybird Landing boat ramp (listed as Jay Bird Creek in the HBCT Brochure) in the extreme upper portion of Lake Martin. The HBCT contain four access points: Bibby's Ferry boat ramp, Germanys Ferry Bridge boat ramp, Horseshoe Bend National

Military Park (HBMP) boat ramp, and Jaybird Landing boat ramp. Jaybird Landing was an exit ramp for those floating downstream from Horseshoe Bend but was also used as an access point for some traveling upstream to fish/recreate at and above Irwin Shoals in the HBCT. The two sections of the Tallapoosa River from Malone Bridge boat ramp to Wadley Bridge boat ramp, and Wadley Bridge boat ramp to Bibby's Ferry boat ramp were also included as part of the study because there was public access and some use was anticipated in these sections during the study period. The section of river from the Harris Dam to Malone Bridge boat ramp was not sampled because of poor access at the Harris Dam. Additionally, one boat ramp between Horseshoe Bend and Jaybird Landing called Peters Island was not used because it was remote, and a four-wheel drive vehicle was necessary to access it.

2.0 Methods

I believed 36 sampling days would be adequate to obtain information from anglers and non-anglers; a minimum sampling period of 30-days is recommended to produce reliable estimates of angler effort, catch, and catch rates at resources where no previous information has been collected (McCormick and Meyer 2017). Therefore, to achieve objectives of the Downstream Tallapoosa River User Counts and Survey study, I developed a 36-day bus-route type creel survey (henceforth referred to as the "creel survey") that had two complementary components: 1) vehicle counts, and 2) interviews with recreational users to collect information about their trips by means of a prepared questionnaire. A bus-route creel is a modified access survey designed for fisheries with numerous access points over a broad geographic area (Robson and Jones 1989; Jones et al. 1990). To use the method, numerous access points are treated as a group and sampled over the course of a day. The survey route is analogous to a bus route with stops at designated access points on a predetermined schedule (Pollack et al. 1991). Additional survey days were added to sample every holiday weekend day not randomly selected as part of the 36-day sampling schedule to produce effort estimates for holiday weekends (Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Columbus Day) and non-holidays occurring during the May through October 2019 study period. Steps necessary to develop and analyze the creel survey are presented below.

2.1 Creel Survey Pretesting Period (March-April 2019)

Since no previous user surveys of Tallapoosa River recreational users had been documented within the study area, a two month pretesting period (March through April 2019) was necessary to 1) identify any outfitter with local knowledge of river use and effort distribution, 2) familiarize study personnel with access points, 3) develop driving directions between access points for creel clerks, 4) determine time necessary to drive a complete circular route of access points, 5) conduct vehicle counts to determine proportional use at each access point, 6) pretest potential survey questions with encountered recreational users, engage with them about their experiences using the river to see if additional survey questions were warranted, and to inform them of the pending study, and 7) using the above information, develop reliable and valid final sampling

protocols, materials, and questionnaire that would obtain necessary information to achieve study objectives as efficiently as possible.

At the start of the pretesting period, I contacted the only recreational outfitter I could find who provided services within the study area. The outfitter was extremely cooperative, and he provided me with estimates of seasonal use of his business by Tallapoosa River recreational users, and his overall perception of linear recreational use of the river from the Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing. Based on his business records, the outfitter indicated that the month of June was historically his busiest month, followed closely by the months of May and July, respectively. When asked to partition 36 days of sampling from May through October, he indicated he would assign 8 days to June, 7 days each to May and July, 6 days to September, and 4 days each in August and October. Additionally, he believed that about 80 percent of all recreational activity he had observed in the study area occurred from Germanys Ferry to Jaybird Landing, or within the confines of the HBCT. In the absence of published information on the distribution of actual effort on the Tallapoosa River, this information gave some information to judge against actual observations that occurred during the pretesting period and assist in development of the final sampling protocol.

Pretesting of the creel survey occurred on 12 days in March and April 2019 (eight weekend days and four weekdays). The first two days were used to develop the most optimal and safe driving route between ramps. There were multiple roads that could get creel clerks from ramp to ramp, but not all of the roads were paved, and some had bridges that would flood intermittently with heavy rains. To ensure creel clerk safety, every feasible route between ramps was driven to determine the safest route on paved roads except as necessary. Paved roads were available between every access point except for entering/exiting Jaybird Landing where the only road in or out is partially improved gravel/dirt. Once the safest route was determined, routes were driven to provide precise directions and drive-times (Appendix B) and conduct 15-minute vehicle counts at each access point. At the end of the first two days of pretesting, it was determined that an individual driving the route could start at any access point, travel to the remaining access points in a clockwise or counter clockwise direction, conduct vehicle counts for 15 minutes at each access point, and return to the starting ramp within a four-hour period.

The remaining 10 days of pretest sampling were used to practice driving the route, make vehicle counts, and train creel clerks. Routes were attempted to be completed within a four-hour window, but because it was still necessary to interview participants to pretest the questionnaire, timelines were not followed as strictly as would be necessary during the intended study period. Nevertheless, the 15-minute vehicle counts surrendered the necessary information to develop final survey protocols. Based on the vehicle count information collected during the pretest presented in Table 1, Jaybird Landing accounted for the most vehicles (53.5 percent), followed by access points at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park (17.8 percent), Germanys Ferry (16.8 percent), Malone (8.9 percent), Wadley (1.9 percent), and Bibby's Ferry (1.0 percent). Overall, 88 percent of use during the pretest occurred from Germanys Ferry to Jaybird Landing, similar to the outfitter's assessment (80 percent).

While conducting instantaneous vehicle counts during the March through April pretesting period, myself and creel clerks interviewed 35 individuals about their trip characteristics, and tested survey questions including those about their perceptions of instream flow. Most questions were answered easily by recreational users with three exceptions. First, the term "flow" proved problematic during pretesting as that is not a term which most people use to describe water conditions. Instead, nearly all preferred "water level" when asked to rate instream flow. Second, the five-point measurement scale associated with questions about the acceptability of water level proved problematic without showing the participant the question on paper. Therefore, response format for this question was changed to a 10-point measurement scale ranging from "very unacceptable" to "very acceptable". Third, a similar issue was found with the 5-point satisfaction rating; it too was changed to a 10-point scale ranging from "very dissatisfied" to "very satisfied". Both scales were more easily understood by participants during the remainder of the pretest.

Table 1. Number of vehicles observed at Tallapoosa River public access-points during March-April 2019 pretesting period; by date and overall.

DATE	MALONE	WADLEY	BIBBY'S	GERMANYS	HBMP	JAYBIRD	TOTAL
3/2/2019	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
3/9/2019	0	0	0	2	0	3	5
3/16/2019	0	0	0	2	2	1	5
3/23/2019	0	0	0	3	2	10	15
3/26/2019	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
3/31/2019	0	0	0	1	2	10	13
4/7/2019	3	0	0	0	0	10	13
4/12/2019	0	0	1	1	0	8	10
4/13/2019	2	1	0	4	5	7	19
4/19/2019	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
4/23/2019	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
4/27/2019	4	0	0	1	4	4	13
TOTAL	9	2	1	17	18	54	101

Toward the end of the pretesting period, I created the final vehicle count form, questionnaire, and detailed scripts and instructions for creel clerks (Appendix C), and trained creel clerks on-site.

2.2 Final Bus-Route Creel Survey Methodology (May-October 2019)

Based on information provided by Stanovick 1993, Jones and Robson 1991, and Malvestuto et al. 1978 for bus-route type creel surveys and information developed in the pretest, I developed the final bus-route creel survey to use during the study period. Creel clerks randomly sampled the Tallapoosa River on 36 days between May 1 and October

31, 2019. For the 36 randomly selected days, I used the outfitters knowledge about seasonal use to partition those days across months. Since there was no prior knowledge of seasonal use, I felt this was the best information available to allocate days across months. This resulted in seven days being assigned to May, eight days to June, seven days to July, four days to August, six days to September, and four days to October. The creel schedule was adhered to as best possible, but two sampling days needed to be moved to the same day one week later because of scheduling conflicts. As a result, one September day needed to be conducted in October so both September and October each had five sampling days; the other was replaced one week later in the same month (June). Second, based on previous studies outside of the study area (Hutt et al. 2013; Hunt and Parker 2016) I assumed that weekend use would constitute approximately two-thirds (0.667) of the total effort during the study period and weekday use would constitute the remaining one-third (0.333). Based on the total number of weekday and weekend days each month, I then randomly selected the weekday and weekend days within each month following that proportional allocation as closely as possible. Third, once days were selected, I selected the access point ramp using the following probabilities: Jaybird Landing (0.40), HBMP (0.20), Germanys Ferry (0.20), Malone (0.10), Bibby's Ferry (0.05), and Wadley (0.05). This did not exactly match the proportional use observed in the pretest, but I did not want any ramp to have less than a five percent chance of being selected on any given day, and I felt early spring use observed at Jaybird Landing may be inflated because of the lack of upstream canoe/kayak activity in the colder months; again, the outfitter's knowledge about the river made me confident in that assessment. Fourth, I randomly selected whether the creel survey that day would be a morning (9:00am – 1:00pm), afternoon (1:00pm – 5:00pm), or evening creel survey (5:00pm – 9:00pm or dark) assigning a probability of 0.25, 0.40, and 0.35 to each, respectively. Finally, I randomly selected whether the route of the creel clerk making vehicle counts would travel in a clockwise or counter clockwise direction, each having a 0.50 probability of selection.

Once the 36 sampling days were selected, I then identified the holiday weekend days that were not randomly selected, and they were added to the creel clerks schedule.
Eight of the 13 holiday weekend days observed during the study period were already selected randomly as part of the 36-day creel survey. Therefore, I added the five remaining holidays to the creel clerks' schedule to produce effort estimates for holiday weekends (Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Columbus Day) and non-holiday days (weekday and weekend) that occurred during the May through October 2019 study period. Starting ramp, sampling time, and direction of route for these supplemental holiday sampling days were selected in the same manner as outlined above for the randomly selected days.

Vehicle Counts

At the start of each of the sampling days, three creel clerks would meet at the starting ramp. These included the creel clerk who would be driving the route (route creel clerk), and two creel clerks who would be stationary at that ramp for four hours to conduct the interviews of users (stationary creel clerks). To give adequate time for unforeseen events

the route creel clerk may encounter during the day, the initial 15-minute instantaneous vehicle count was conducted by one of the stationary creel clerks at the starting time that day (9:00am, 1:00pm, or 5:00pm) while the route creel clerk would begin their travel to each of the remaining access points to conduct the remaining vehicle counts. After the route creel clerk had completed vehicle counts at the remaining ramps, they would return to the starting ramp to collect the initial vehicle count. Daily vehicle count data were entered into a Microsoft Excel® spreadsheet weekly, then data entry was checked by two project personnel at the end of the sampling period to avoid transcriptional error (Hunter and Schmidt 1990).

Interview Procedures and Questionnaire

Stationary creel clerks were instructed to interview users who were exiting the river if they were a floater (boat, canoe, kayak, or tube user), or were stationary users (swimming or bank fishing) at one of the six access points. Completed trips and those in progress were targeted because they would be able to complete the entire questionnaire. If those in progress were not available, creel clerks were instructed to interview recreational users who were starting their trips. Additionally, the creel clerk driving the route interviewed any recreational users during their 15-minute instantaneous counts at each access point if it would not interfere with completing their route.

The questionnaire provided information in five general areas: 1) creel clerk information, 2) user and trip characteristics, 3) assessment of water level (i.e., instream flow), 4) trip satisfaction and assessment of river access/amenities, and 5) effort and catch information from those who fished as part of their trip. See Appendix C for a copy of the questionnaire.

First, the questionnaire contained four items for creel clerks to complete at the start of each interview: 1) their unique Clerk ID, 2) ramp code, 3) date, and 4) time of interview.

Second, creel clerks were asked to identify the number of individuals in each vessel or bank fishing party they encountered and select one member of each party to complete the questionnaire. In most creel surveys, the number in each vessel (boat or canoe) or shore-fishing party also equals the total group size. However, because most kayakers are solitary, the number in vessel did not necessarily equal the group size (i.e., number of people who were in the same vehicle). Creel clerks interviewed each kayaker and asked each to indicate their total group size. Additionally, creel clerks made notes on surveys to identify other kayakers in the same group who may have been interviewed. This was necessary because average group size was to be used with vehicle counts to make effort calculations, and I didn't want to double-count group size for these groups in the average. This procedure was also necessary because not everyone in the same group always participated in the same activity and each had to be interviewed for their individual perceptions of water levels. For example, in a group of three kayakers, only one of them may have fished while the other two may have just kayaked, but each had their own experience on the river that day in relation to water level.

Once it was clear who was in each vessel (boat or canoe) or shore-fishing party, creel clerks proceeded in selecting the member within each party to complete the questionnaire. To avoid party leader bias (Holland et al. 1986) and be as random as possible in selection of those who would be asked to complete the questionnaire, if the number of individuals exceeded one, creel clerks asked individuals in the vessel or bank fishing party to self-identify the participant with the most recent birthday to complete the survey (Ditton and Hunt 2001). If that person refused, the party member with the next closest birthday was asked to participate. As noted above, this procedure wasn't necessary for individual kayakers as each was interviewed if possible.

The gender of the participant selected for the interview was noted by the creel clerks and the participant was asked for their age and Zip Code of home residence. Participants were then asked, "*What was your primary activity today?*" Responses were classified into 1 of 10 responses: 1) shore fishing, 2) tubing, 3) swimming, 4) boating, 5) boat fishing, 6) canoeing, 7) canoe fishing, 8) kayaking, 9) kayak fishing, and 10) Other. Next, they were asked what time they started their activity that day, and at what ramp they started their trip that day, or if they started from private property. Participants were then asked if they personally had left a vehicle at their starting ramp, and if not, who dropped them off (outfitter or other, which could include another person in group or a family member/friend who dropped them off). Next, they were asked if the ramp they were being interviewed at was their final destination for their trip that day, and if not, at what time/ramp they would be finishing their trip.

Third, to obtain an assessment of water level (i.e., instream flow) participants were asked, "*On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being "very unacceptable" and 10 being "very acceptable", how would you rate the water level 1) right now, 2) at the start of their trip, and 3) for their entire trip that day*". This question was developed based on previous research by Whittaker and Shelby (2002) and is currently used in most user studies of instream flow. Others in the party/group felt left out by not being selected for the study were asked for their rating of the water level "right now", but were not used in data analysis as it would interfere with the randomness of the study design. Next, participants were asked "*Did you check the USGS water gages or call Alabama Power to see what the water level would be before your trip today?*". If they answered "NO", they were asked "*If you knew the water level in the river was going to be exactly what you experienced today BEFORE you made your trip, would you have still made your trip today?*".

Fourth, to obtain a measure of trip satisfaction participants were asked, "*On a scale of 1 to 10 with a 1 being "very dissatisfied" and 10 being "very satisfied", how satisfied were you with your entire trip on the river today?*". Participants were then asked "*Would you like to see more access points for recreation on the Tallapoosa River?*". Anyone who was in a vessel was also asked "*Would you like to see any additional amenities for use on float trips?*". If yes, they were asked what amenities they would most prefer to see on the river. Respondents open-ended responses to this question were not analyzed but are provided in Appendix D.

Finally, any participant who was fishing was asked to provide effort and catch data about their trip that day. Kayakers completed the effort and catch information for themselves, while every other participant provided information for their entire group. As opposed to total effort calculations, catch and effort information is computed based on vessel/party size. Catch and effort information was sought for 17 individual fish species found in the study area (*Alabama/spotted bass, Tallapoosa redeye bass, largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, redbreast sunfish, white crappie, black crappie, blue catfish, channel catfish, flathead catfish, bullhead catfish, white bass, hybrid striped bass, striped bass, bowfin, carp, and blacktail redhorse*), and general categories for bass, bream/sunfish, crappie, and catfish for those who couldn't identify to species. Additionally, effort for "anything" was recorded for those who didn't necessarily target a particular species. Anglers were asked to indicate what was their target species, if any, hours fished for target species, and the number caught, released, and harvested for any species. If the angler had harvested any fish, creel clerks asked if they could measure the fish they harvested.

Questionnaire were entered into a Microsoft Excel® spreadsheet weekly, then data entry was checked by two project personnel at the end of the sampling period to avoid transcriptional error (Hunter and Schmidt 1990)

Creel/User Survey Effort Calculations

The bus route creel survey design was used to make instantaneous counts of vehicles parked at access sites. The bus route completed a loop of the study area within one of the three possible four-hour periods during a daily cycle (9:00am-1:00pm, 1:00pm-5:00pm, and 5:00pm-9:00pm). Estimates of vehicle-hours made during the four-hour period were expanded to total vehicle-hours during a 12-hour day. Recreation user-hours during a 12-hour day were estimated by multiplying vehicle-hours by average group size. Average group size was determined by participant interviews conducted by the creel clerks stationed at randomly selected access points.

Daily estimates of recreational user hours were averaged according to week and weekend days (weekend days included holidays), by each month. Mean daily week and weekend estimates of effort were expanded to total monthly effort based on the total number of week and weekend days in each month. The statistical formulas applied to make these estimated can be found in Appendix E.

Assessment of Tallapoosa River Water Levels (e.g., instream flow)

Kleinschmidt and Alabama Power developed a flow model based on data loggers placed throughout the river. The flow model produced discharge data (in cubic feet per second, or cfs) in 30-minute intervals at the seven access points. For each recreational user interviewed during the study, a discharge value was matched to the time and location they began their recreation activity and the time and location they ended their activity. If the beginning or ending time of a river user's activity occurred between 30-minute

intervals (e.g., at 11:45 or 11:50 instead of 11:30 or 12:00), discharge was estimated using the nearest discharge values. For example, if discharge was 1000 cfs at 11:30 and 1020 cfs at 12:00, then discharge was estimated to be 1010 cfs at 11:45. Some recreational users were interviewed at the time they began their activity. In these cases, only the starting discharge was recorded. Discharge values were not identified on private or remote access, but that situation was rare (n=6). The beginning and ending discharges were averaged for each recreational user's trip to estimate the average discharge during their trip.

After the flow model determined the discharge (cfs) at the start and stop time, and entire trip of each participant who completed the survey, I merged these data with the three acceptability assessments the participant made for water level: right now (end time), start time, and entire trip. As per previous research (Whittaker and Shelby 2002), a graph was produced with acceptability on the y-axis and cubic feet per second on the x-axis. Theoretically, this should produce a graph as shown in Figure 1 (adapted from Whittaker and Shelby 2002) which would indicate the marginal low and high flow, acceptable range, optimal range and optimum flow for users of the Tallapoosa River. The parabolic curve in Figure 1 follows the hypothetical average acceptability ratings of users (blue bars) at a given flow level.

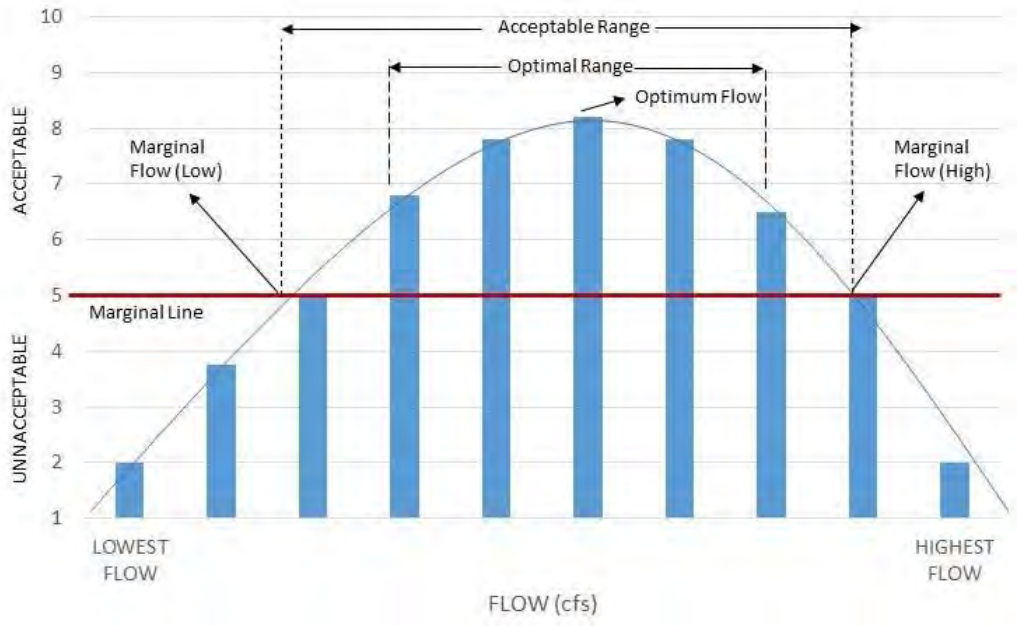

Figure 1. Hypothetical flow evaluation curve adapted from Whittaker and Shelby (2002).

Statistical Tests Used in Analysis of Counts and Surveys

Various descriptive, parametric, and non-parametric statistical tests were used in the evaluation of study data. Descriptive statistics including frequency distributions and means were computed use SAS Version 9.4 (SAS Institute 2016) or similar tools available in Microsoft Excel®. Any group comparisons were conducted using t-tests or Wilcoxon Rank Sum test depending on the level of measurement of the response variable in SAS Version 9.4. Finally, to determine the effect of flow on acceptability of water level, trip satisfaction, catch, and harvest, simple linear regressions were conducted with each as the dependent variable and estimated average flow (cfs) recreational users encountered as the independent variable using SAS Version 9.4.

Linear regression is similar to correlation in that the purpose is to measure to what extent there is a linear relationship between two variables. Specifically, the purpose is to predict the value of the dependent variables based upon the value of the independent variable(s). Since the objectives of this study were all conceived to determine if instream flow (cfs) affected acceptability, satisfaction, effort, catch, and harvest, I felt this was the most appropriate statistical procedure to use to evaluate objectives. Because the acceptability and satisfaction scales are technically ordinal and not continuous measures, I investigated using logistic regression for those analyses. However, to do so the original values on the 10-point scales needed to be collapsed into five or fewer categories to provide enough sample size per category. Additionally, it would have disrupted the integrity of the scale as I would have to force the marginal value of "5" to be combined with an acceptable value of "6" for the analysis. Further, for the acceptability scale, the lowest combined category of "1" and "2" would have had zero observations. Both analyses produce similar results in terms of statistical significance, so I felt this violation of assumptions was necessary to adequately address the objectives.

3.0 Results

3.1 Characteristics of Tallapoosa River Recreational Users

Analysis of survey data showed most recreational users from May through October 2019 were males (79 percent; Figure 2). The average age of all users was 41.8 years; however, age groups were relatively evenly distributed above 20 years with the 30-39 age group being the modal group (Figure 3). Finally, 94 percent of Tallapoosa River users resided within 20 counties in Alabama (Figure 4); 3.5 percent were from western Georgia, and 0.6 percent each was from Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee or North Carolina, respectively. Residents of Tallapoosa and Lee Counties in Alabama made the majority of trips (53 percent) to the Tallapoosa River from May through October 2019.

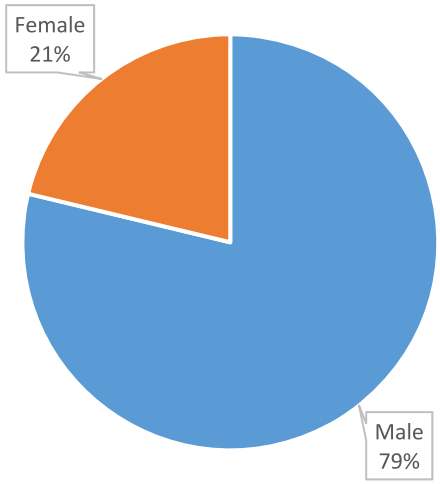

Figure 2. Percent of Tallapoosa River recreational users from May-October 2019; by gender (n=160).

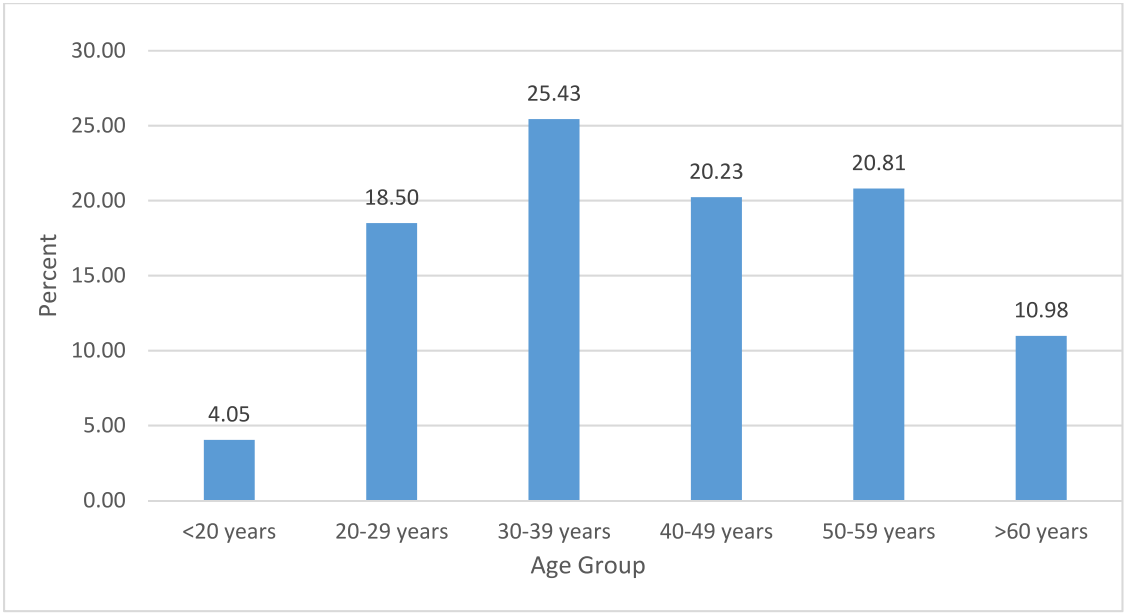

Figure 3. Percent of Tallapoosa River recreational users from May-October 2019; by age group (n=173).

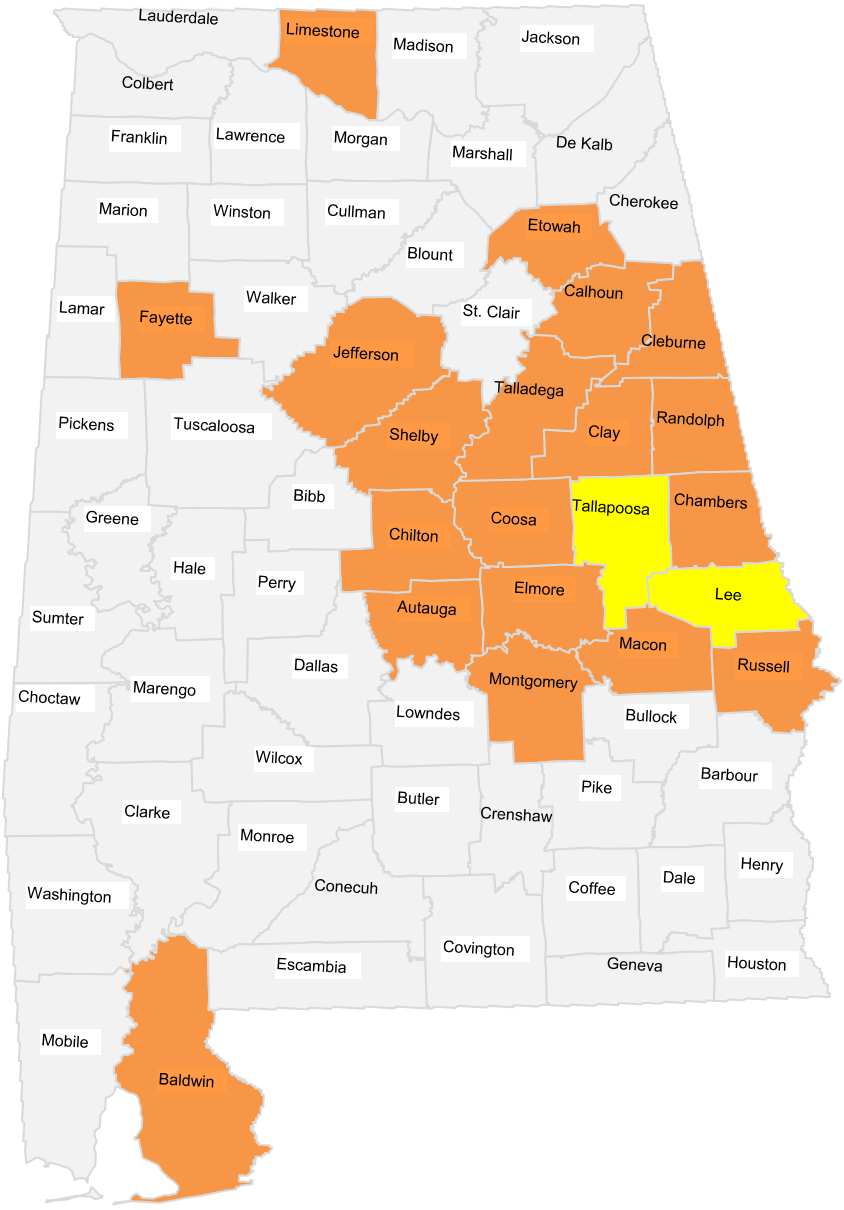

Figure 4. Origins of Tallapoosa River user trips (May-October 2019); by Alabama County (n=173).

3.2 Characteristics of Trips made by Tallapoosa River Recreational Users

Based on data collected during interviews from May through October 2019, nearly 70 percent of all recreational trips on the Tallapoosa River originated from the HBMP boat ramp (Table 2), followed by the boat ramps at the Germanys Ferry Road bridge (12.7 percent) and Jaybird Landing (10.4 percent). No individuals indicated their trip started at the Wadley Bridge boat ramp, however, those starting at the Malone Bridge boat ramp finished their trip at Wadley (Table 3). With most river recreation trips starting at HBMP, it wasn't surprising that the boat ramp at Jaybird Landing was the ending boat ramp for nearly 61 percent of trips. Horseshoe Bend National Military Park boat ramp was second with over 24 percent of trips ending there; primarily because it was a popular bank-fishing destination, and recreational boaters in johnboats could launch from the HBMP, safely fish in the vicinity of the boat ramp, and return to that boat ramp on their outings.

Table 2. Starting boat ramp of Tallapoosa River recreational user trips from May-October 2019 (n=173).

STARTING BOAT RAMP	Frequency	Percent
MALONE BRIDGE	1	0.58
BIBBY'S FERRY	6	3.47
GERMANYS FERRY BRIDGE	22	12.72
HBMP	120	69.36
JAYBIRD LANDING	18	10.40
PRIVATE LAND	5	2.89
UNIDENTIFIED REMOTE ACCESS	1	0.58
TOTAL	173	100.00

Table 3. Ending boat ramp of Tallapoosa River recreation user trips from May-October 2019 (n=174).

ENDING BOAT RAMP	Frequency	Percent
WADLEY BRIDGE	1	0.57
BIBBY'S FERRY	5	2.87
GERMANYS FERRY BRIDGE	16	9.20
HBMP	42	24.14
JAYBIRD LANDING	106	60.92
PRIVATE LAND	1	0.57
UNIDENTIFIED REMOTE ACCESS	3	1.72
TOTAL	174	100.00

Figure 5 presents the breakdown of activity by individuals interviewed from May through October 2019 (n=173). Kayaking accounted for 60 percent of the activity observed on the river during the study period with 33 percent of users Kayaking, and an additional 27 percent of users Kayak Fishing. These were followed by Boat Fishing (14 percent), Shore Fishing (13 percent), Canoeing (5 percent), and Canoe Fishing (5 percent). About 3 percent of trips fell into the "Other" category; these included Swimming, Tubing, and Recreational Boating, ATV use, or Nature/Wildlife Watching.

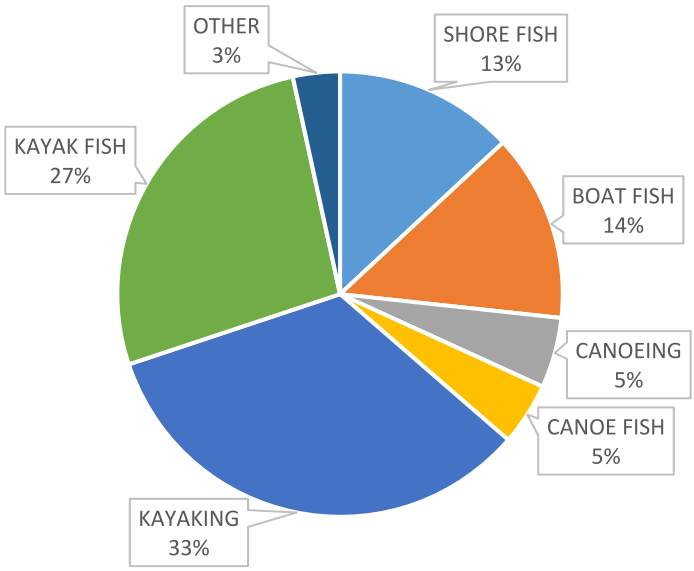

Figure 5. Percent of Tallapoosa River recreational trips by activity from May-October 2019 (n=173).

Almost 75 percent of all river-related recreation trips consisted of more than one person (Table 4). The average group size over the course of the study was 2.63 individuals. Group size on weekends (2.84) was greater than group size observed on weekdays (2.14). Creel clerks interviewed 131 individuals who were by themselves when interviewed (Table 5), however, only 37 of them were participating alone on the river that day (Table 4). Table 5 shows the number of individuals per vessel (boat, canoe, or kayak) or shore-fishing party.

Table 4. Group size associated with Tallapoosa River recreational user trips from May-October 2019 (n=138).

Group Size [a]	Frequency [b]	Percent
1	37	25.97
2	56	43.65
3	16	11.05
4	11	7.18
5	9	6.08
6	6	3.87
13	1	0.55
14	2	1.10
TOTAL	138	100.00

[a] Average Group Size=2.63 (2.14 weekday; 2.84 weekend)
[b] Frequency Missing = 38 (note; these were individuals who were interviewed, but other individuals in their group were also interviewed).

Table 5. Number of individuals observed in each recreational vessel or shore-fishing party on the Tallapoosa River from May-October 2019 (n=176).

Number in Vessel or Shore Party [a]	Frequency	Percent
1	131	74.43
2	32	18.18
3	9	5.11
4	2	1.14
5	2	1.14
TOTAL	176	100.00

[a] Average number of individuals per vessel was 1.36

3.3 Monthly and Total Effort Estimates of Use by Tallapoosa River Recreational Users from May-October 2019

Creel clerks counted 608 vehicles associated with Tallapoosa River recreation on sampled days from May through October 2019. Distribution of counts by date is shown in Figure 6. Of these, n=26 (4.27 percent) were counted at Malone Bridge boat ramp, n=24 (3.95 percent) at Wadley Bridge boat ramp, n=45 (7.40 percent) at Bibby's Ferry boat ramp, n=76 (12.50%) at Germanys Ferry Bridge boat ramp, n=233 (38.32 percent) at HBMP boat ramp, and n=204 (33.56 percent) at Jaybird Landing boat ramp.

The average group size was 2.63 overall (2.14 weekdays and 2.84 weekends; Table 4). Recreational effort in the study area from recreational users (not using an outfitter) from May through October 2019 was estimated to be **55,885 hours** (Table 6). Average trip length for recreational users averaged 5.04 hours. Dividing total hours of effort by average trip length produced an estimate of **11,088 person-days of effort** during the period. Dividing number of person-days by the overall group size of 2.63 individuals produced an estimate of **4,215 actual one or multiple person river recreation trips** that occurred in the study area from May through October 2019. The month of May exhibited the highest amount of effort during the study period (16,854 hours) and accounted for over 30 percent of all river use, followed by June (12,642 hours) and July (12,075 hours). Combined, over 74 percent of all recreational trips occurred in the months of May, June, and July.

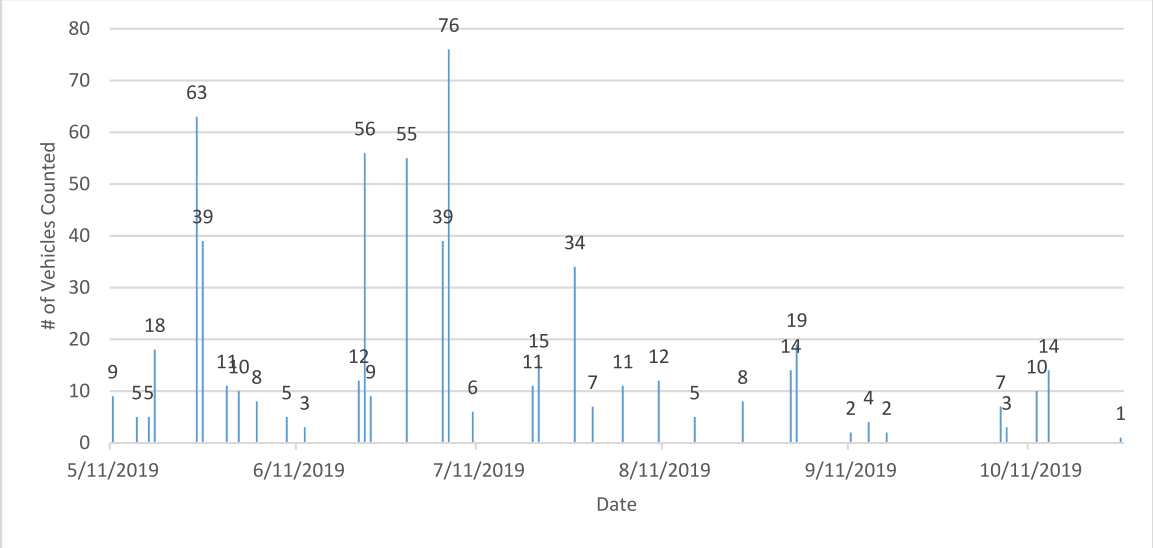

Figure 6. Number of vehicles counted at access points on the Tallapoosa River on 36 randomly selected days between May-October 2019.

In addition, the one identified outfitter indicated that he provided outfitting services to 371 individuals (226 kayak/canoe renters and 145 ferried with own vessel) from May through October 2019. The outfitter indicated that trips ranged from 4-6 hours with the average being 5 hours. The **371 person-days of effort** attributed to the outfitter was multiplied by the 5-hour average trip length producing a total of **1,855 hours of effort**. Using average group size of recreational users (2.63), it was estimated that the outfitter provided services for **145 actual one or multiple person recreation trips** during the study period. Similar to those not using an outfitter, the majority of outfitter effort occurred in the months of May, June, and July (Figure 7).

Combined, it was estimated that total recreational effort on the Tallapoosa River from May 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019 was **57,740 hours**. Combined with group size and trip-length, it was estimated that there was **11,469 person-days** of river related recreation that

occurred as part of **4,360 actual one or multiple person trips**. These numbers reflect the number of individuals who participated in river-related recreation from March through October 2019 if each individual only went to the river once during that period. I know that is an unrealistic assumption as many individuals frequent the river multiple times during the year, and don't always participate in the same activity on successive trips. But, annual use by recreationists was not part of the design of this study so the total numbers of individuals participating in each activity was not able to be estimated.

Table 6. Average daily, monthly, and total recreational effort on the Tallapoosa River from May-October 2019.

MONTH	weekday group size	weekend group size	mean daily weekday effort (hours)	mean daily weekend effort (hours)	Mean daily monthly effort (hours)	Total monthly effort (hours)	Standard Error of Total Monthly Effort
May	2.00	3.78	168.0	1462.0	543.7	16854.0	4686.9
June	2.10	3.36	138.6	987.0	421.4	12642.0	3751.5
July	2.50	1.90	195.0	798.0	389.5	12075.0	2433.5
August	2.00	3.33	120.0	413.3	205.2	6360.0	411.2
September	2.00	2.46	48.0	364.3	142.9	4286.8	1112.1
October	2.25	2.18	81.0	209.5	118.3	3667.1	602.2
Average	**2.14**	**2.84**	**125.10**	**705.68**	**303.49**	**9314.1**	**2166.2**
Total	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	**55884.90**	**1473.4**

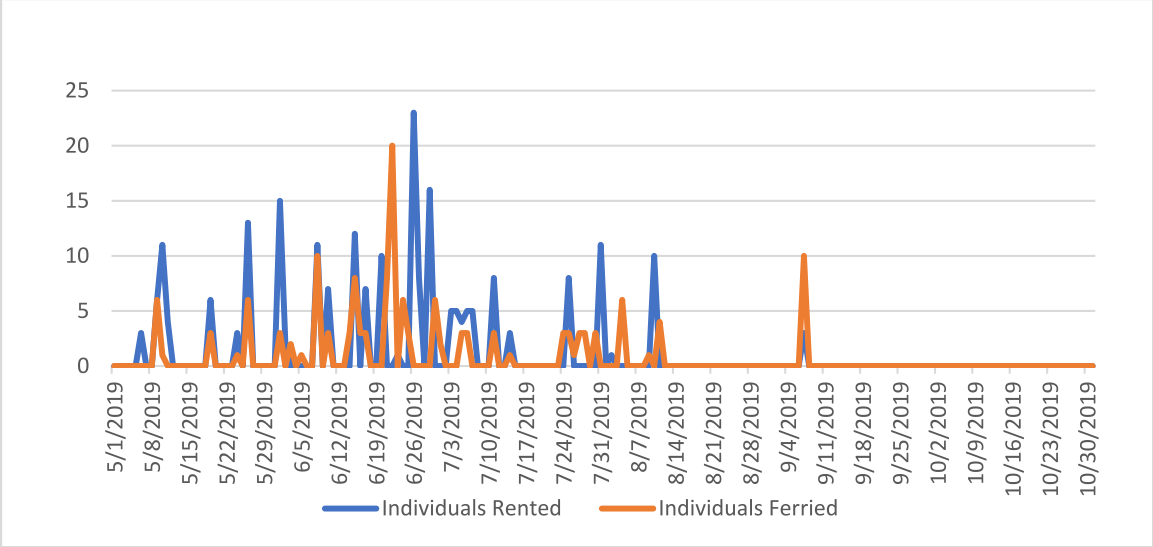

Figure 7. Tallapoosa River outfitter rentals and ferries from May-October 2019; by date (n=381).

3.4 Instream Flow's Effect on Effort

To address how instream flow affected effort I looked at effort on the most used stretch of river between HBMP and Jaybird Landing. First, I used data logger information provided by Kleinschmidt Associates to determine the average water level observed in cfs from 9am to 9pm at the HBMP ramp on all 184 days between May 1 and October 31, 2019. Second, I grouped average water level by sampling days (n=36) and non-sampling days (n=148). Third, I conducted a group comparison to determine if average daily flow was significantly different on sampling v. non-sampling days; they were not (t=-0.82, df=39.96, P=0.2436). Fourth, because sampling and non-sampling days didn't have any observable differences, I proceeded to conduct a linear regression to determine if average acceptability ratings on the 36 sampling days was affected by water level at HBMP on those dates; it was not (F=0.41, P=0.5280). Because I did not find any significant relationship between water level and effort on sampling days, and I found no significant differences between water level on sampled and non-sampled days, the data indicates that water levels (i.e., flows) observed in the study did not have a significant impact on effort.

3.5 Holiday versus Non-holiday Effort

As a separate analysis, I investigated the differences between effort observed on 13 holiday weekend days (Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Columbus Day holidays) and every other day not a holiday (n=28) to determine if, and by how much, effort differed on these days. As is shown in Table 7, average daily effort on holiday weekend days is about 2.71 times greater than regular days (weekday or weekend) that aren't part of a holiday.

Table 7. Average daily, monthly, and total recreational effort on the Tallapoosa River from May-October 2019; by holiday and non-holiday (regular) days.

Month	n Holidays	n Regular	Holiday group size	Regular group size	Mean daily Holiday effort in hours	Mean daily Regular effort in hours
May	3	5	3.71	2.40	1990.9	276.5
June	--	8	---	3.12	---	783.3
July	4	5	2.50	1.79	1357.5	312.9
August	1	4	4.00	2.67	432.0	288.0
September	2	3	2.70	1.75	534.6	56.0
October	3	3	2.11	2.20	244.9	96.8
TOTAL	13	28	---	---	---	---
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	---	---	2.84	2.44	1,048.9	386.57

3.6 Recreational Effort by Type of River Recreation Activity

Based on the previous discussion of group size and vessel/party size, the estimate of 11,088 person-days of recreational use by non-outfitter related recreational users was the best measure to use to partition recreational use on the Tallapoosa River by activity presented in Figure 5. Table 8 illustrates the results of multiplying the person-day estimate by the proportional allocation of observed activity. These numbers would reflect the maximum number of recreational users from May through October 2019, not including repeat use.

Table 8. Breakdown of the number of person-days (11,088 days) of recreational use on the Tallapoosa River by activity participated in on user trips (n=176).

Activity	Proportion of Tallapoosa River Recreation Trips	Person-days of use on the Tallapoosa River
Kayaking (non-fishing)	0.33	3,659.04
Kayak Fishing	0.27	2,993.76
Boat Fishing	0.14	1,552.32
Shore Fishing	0.13	1,441.44
Canoeing (non-fishing)	0.05	554.40
Canoe Fishing	0.05	554.40
Other	0.03	332.64
TOTAL	1.0	11088.00

3.7 Tallapoosa River User's Assessments of Water Levels Encountered on Trips

Tallapoosa River recreational users interviewed from May through October 2019 were asked to rate the water level at the start of their trip, "right now" which could have been at the beginning, during, or end of trip depending on interview type, and for the entire trip. Average user ratings on the 10-point acceptability scale were highly correlated ($p<0.001$): 7.46 (start), 7.56 ("right now"), and 7.58 (entire). Therefore, it was only necessary to use one of the assessments to understand user perceptions of the water levels they encountered during their trips. I chose to use the assessment for "right now" for two reasons. First, everyone interviewed was asked this question regardless of where they were at in their trip that day and this assessment had the highest number of responses (n=176). Assessments for start of trip and entire trip only had sample sizes of n=139 and n=137, respectively. Second, this assessment was made during their interview; creel clerks could observe the individual look at the water and make a decision right then with visual ques.

The distribution of acceptability responses for the water level encountered "right now" is presented in Table 9. No individuals rated the water level as a 1 or 2. Only 5.7 percent of users rated the water level in the unacceptable range (below 5), with another 12.8 percent given a neutral rating of 5. Therefore, over 81 percent of recreational users rated the water level they observed "right now" as acceptable, and nearly 17.6 percent rated the water level as a 10 or "very acceptable".

Table 9. Water level acceptability rating (n=176).

Acceptability Rating [a]	Frequency	Percent
3	5	2.84
4	4	2.27
5	17	9.66
6	20	11.36
7	33	18.75
8	42	23.86
9	22	12.5
10	33	18.75
Total	176	100.00

[a] Rating scale was a 10-point scale with a 1 being "very unacceptable" and a 10 being "very acceptable". Ratings of Tallapoosa River recreational users "right now".

Figure 8 graphically presents the average acceptability ratings users made by water level (cfs). The marginal line (red) represents the midpoint of the rating scale where "1" was "Very Unacceptable" and a "10" was "Very Acceptable".

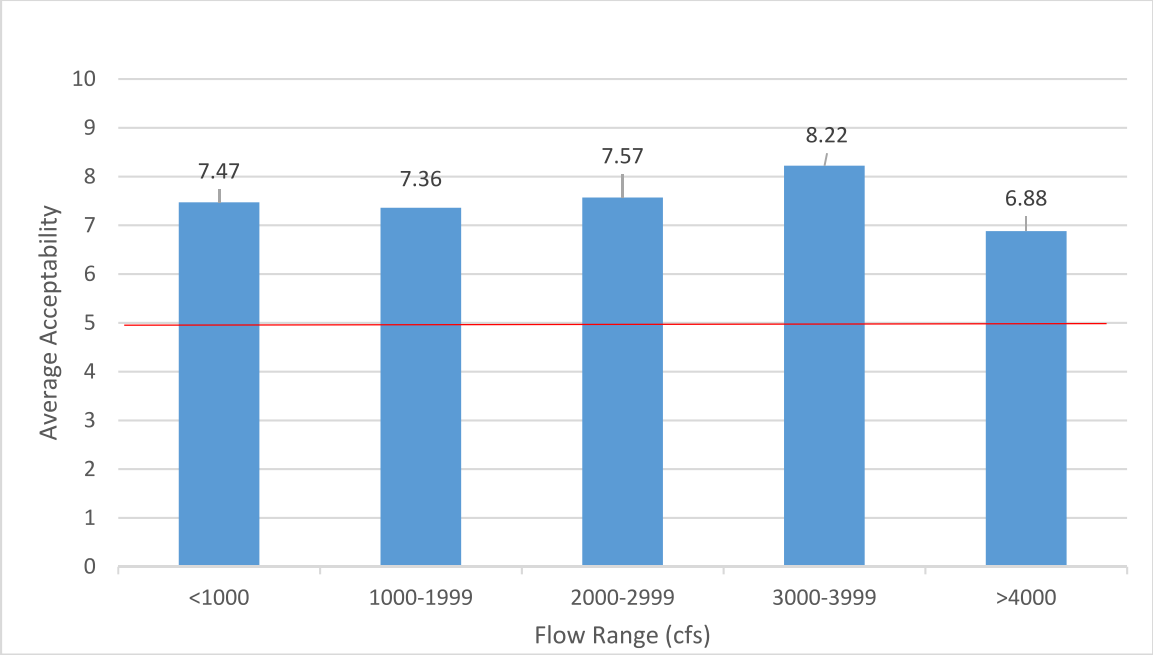

Figure 8. Recreational user acceptability of Tallapoosa River water level at time of interview (n=176).

As Figure 9 shows, only 25.0 percent of recreational users indicated they checked USGS gages or contacted Alabama Power before making their trip.

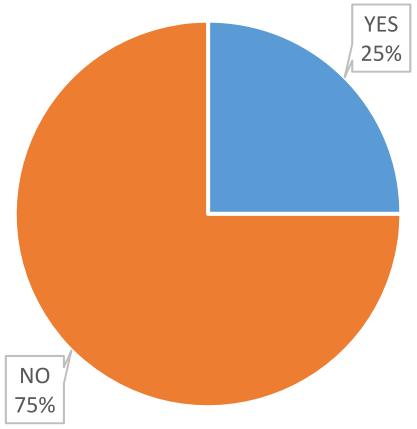

Figure 9. Tallapoosa River recreational users by whether they checked the USGS water gages or contacted Alabama Power to obtain release information before their trip (n=176).

The 75.0 percent of recreational users (n=132) who did not check USGS gages or contact Alabama Power for the generation schedule were asked if they would have still made their trip had they known they would have encountered the same water level beforehand; over 94 percent indicated they would have still made the trip (Figure 10).

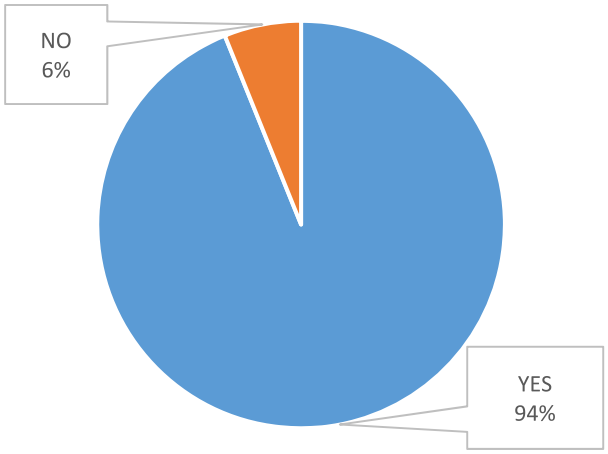

Figure 10. Tallapoosa River recreational users who did not check the USGS gages or contact Alabama Power to obtain release information (n=131) who would have still made the trip.

To determine how water level (i.e., instream flow) affected acceptability, I conducted a linear regression of acceptability score by the flow "right now" predicted by measurements from the data loggers (Figure 11). Results were significant (p=0.0071) and indicated that from the intercept acceptability of 6.8572 at zero flow, acceptability scores could be increased by 0.3 for every 1000 cfs increase. However, the R-Squared associated with the model was small (0.0426). R-squared is the percentage of the response variable variation that is explained by a linear model. A variation close to 0 represents a model that does not explain any of the variation in the response variable around its mean where 1.0 represents a model that explains all of the variation in the response variable around its mean. Water level only explained a small amount of variation around the mean acceptability score "right now"; over 95 percent of the variance around the mean acceptability rating is attributed to something other than water level/instream flow. Therefore, water level was a poor predictor of acceptability rating.

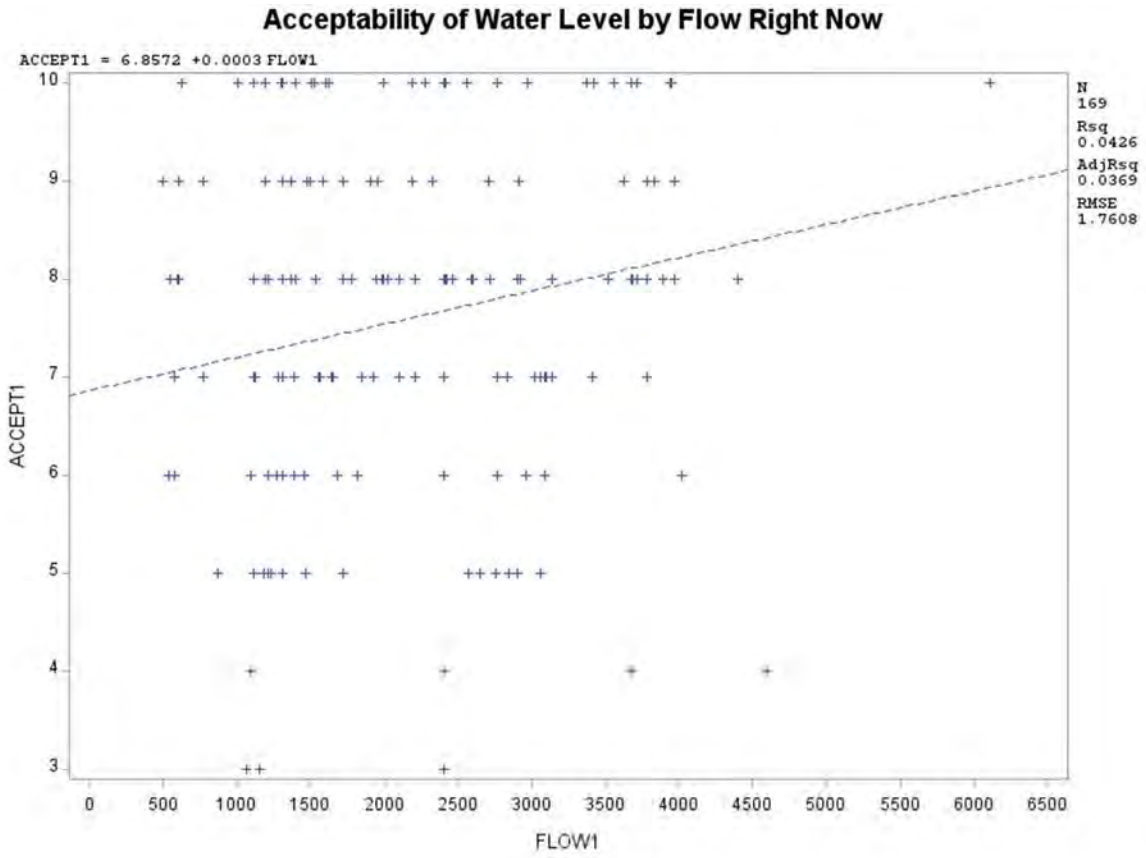

Figure 11. Results of linear regression with acceptability rating "right now" as the dependent variable and predicted flow (discharge in CFS) at time of interview as the independent variable.

Further, I investigated group differences on two variables and found no significant statistical differences between those who checked the gages and those who didn't on acceptability "right now" (z=-0.3364; df=171; P=0.7366); and "average flow observed on trip" (t=-0.06, df=171, P=0.9546). Therefore, there was no overall difference between the average flow observed by those who checked the gages (2,128 cfs) and those who

didn't (2,139 cfs), and by how they rated the acceptability of water level at the time they were interviewed on the 10-point acceptability scale (7.43 v. 7.60, respectively). Although I would expect to find water levels more acceptable to those who checked the gages before their trip, that hypothesis wasn't supported by the data.

3.8 Trip Satisfaction of Tallapoosa River Recreational Users

Recreational users were asked three questions related to their satisfaction with their trip on the day they were interviewed, and recreation on the Tallapoosa River in general. First, when those in the middle of their trip or at the end of their trip (n=154) were asked to rate their trip satisfaction on a 10-point scale with 1 being "very dissatisfied" and a 10 being "very satisfied", 80 percent rated their satisfaction level from 8-10 with 43 percent rating it as a 10 (Table 10). The average satisfaction rating was 8.5.

Table10. Satisfaction ratings for overall trip by Tallapoosa River recreational users from May-October 2019 (n=154).

Satisfaction Rating [a]	Frequency	Percent
2	1	0.65
3	3	1.95
5	2	1.3
6	10	6.49
7	11	7.14
8	35	22.73
9	23	14.94
10	69	44.80
Total	154	100.00

[a] Rating scale was a 10-point scale with a 1 being "very dissatisfied" and a 10 being "very satisfied".

When asked if they would like to see more access points for recreation on the Tallapoosa River, over 78 percent of recreational users indicated "yes" (Figure 12).

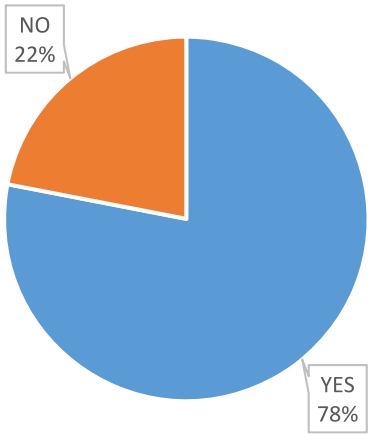

Figure 12. Percent of Tallapoosa River recreational users by whether they would like to see more access points for recreation on the Tallapoosa River (n=176).

When those who were floaters (boat, canoe, or kayak) were asked if they would like to see any additional amenities for use on float trips, slightly over one-half (55 percent) indicated "yes" (Figure 13). Most respondents who answered yes to the question (n=166) suggested bathrooms, trashcans, and some indicated public stopping/resting points between existing access points. Actual responses of those who responded to this question can be found in Appendix D.



Figure 13. Percent of Tallapoosa River recreational users who were floaters by whether they would like to see any additional amenities for use on float trips (n=131).

To further determine how water level (i.e., instream flow) affected trip satisfaction, I conducted a linear regression of satisfaction rating score by the average flow observed on their entire trip calculated from the data loggers Results were not significant (p=0.1456) indicating that water level did not explain any of the variation in trip satisfaction ratings. Further, I investigated group differences on the 10-point satisfaction rating scale and found those who didn't check the gages scored significantly higher (mean=8.90) than those who checked the gages before their trip (mean=8.00; Z=-0.9279; P=0.0034).

3.9 Fishing Effort, Catch, and Harvest Information of Tallapoosa River Recreational Users

From Figure 5 (Page 14), 59 percent (n=102) of parties intercepted on the Tallapoosa River involved recreational fishing. When analyzing those making recreational fishing trips (n=102), Kayak Fishing accounted for 46.08 percent of all fishing trips, 23.53 percent were Boat Fishing, 22.55 percent were Shore Fishing and 7.84 percent of recreational fishing trips involved Canoe Fishing (Figure 14).

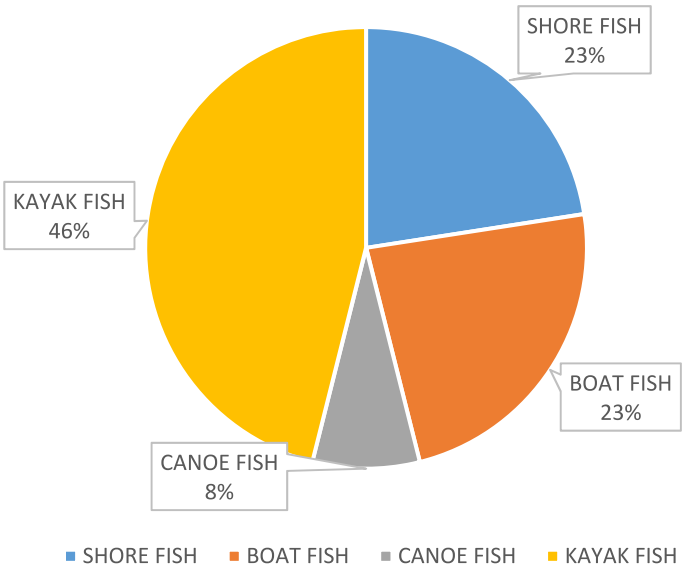

Figure 14. Percent of Tallapoosa River recreational fishing trips; by activity type (n=102).

From Table 8 (Page 19), it was estimated that recreational fishing activity accounted for a total **6,471.92** person-days of participation on the Tallapoosa River from May through October 2019. Catch, release, and harvest estimates within this section were extrapolated to that level of person-days. Additionally, of the 102 fishing parties encountered from May through October 2019, only 91 were intercepted during the middle or end of their trip and were able to provide reliable effort and catch information. The remaining 11 angler parties were intercepted at the beginning of their trip and were removed from effort, catch, release, and harvest calculations because they weren't able to provide that information.

When intercepted on their trips, anglers were asked if they were targeting any species in particular that day. Responses included "anything", a general species group such as bass or catfish, or a specific species such as spotted bass or Tallapoosa redeye bass. About 17.5 percent of anglers indicated they were targeting "anything" on their trip and they spent an average of 4.44 hours fishing on those days. However, to calculate catch per effort, anglers had to target a general species or specific species. Table 11 shows effort,

catch, and catch per effort for those anglers who had a target species or species group when they were intercepted. Out of the 23 species (e.g., spotted bass) or species groupings (e.g., bass), anglers only targeted 8 species or species group as shown. No anglers indicated they were specifically targeting redear sunfish, redbreast sunfish, white crappie, black crappie, blue catfish, channel catfish, flathead catfish, bullhead catfish, white bass, hybrid striped bass, striped bass, bowfin, carp, or blacktail redhorse during the study period. Of the 8 species or species groupings targeted, crappie had the highest catch per effort but only accounted for 1.1 percent of the targeted trips taken. Tallapoosa redeye bass was the most sought-after species or species group accounting for 27.5 percent of all fishing trips, however, only 0.7 fish were caught per hour of fishing, the least of any bass species or the bass group. Altogether, bass species were targeted on about 63.7 percent of all fishing trips.

Table 11. Proportion of Tallapoosa River fishing trips that "Targeted" available riverine species or species group from May-October 2019, average effort spent fishing for targeted species on trip, average catch per day for targeted species, and catch per effort for targeted species.

Species	n	Proportion of trips that targeted species or species group	Average hours spent fishing per day for targeted species or species group	Average catch per day for targeted species or species group	Catch per effort for target species or group (# fish per hour)
Bass (general)	16	0.176	7.1324	7.4286	1.0415
Alabama/Spotted Bass	13	0.143	5.8077	5.8077	1.0000
Tallapoosa Redeye Bass	25	0.275	7.7604	5.4333	0.7001
Largemouth Bass	4	0.044	3.2500	3.6000	1.1077
Bream/Sunfish (general)	7	0.077	5.6071	3.6429	0.6497
Bluegill	1	0.011	3.5000	3.3333	0.9524
Crappie (general)	1	0.011	2.0000	4.0000	2.0000
Catfish (general)	8	0.088	4.8214	1.1667	0.2420

Although anglers didn't necessarily have a target species, this does not mean that anglers didn't catch a variety of the species available in the river. Additionally, most of those who fished for "anything" were at least able to identify their catch to species group. Further, some may have targeted a species group (e.g., bass) and were able to identify the species caught on their trip (e.g., spotted bass), and those who had a target species caught other species as well. Therefore, all anglers (n=91) were used in the per-day analysis of catch, release, and harvest. If they didn't report catching any species or species group their value was set to 0 so that estimates could be made of total fish caught, total fish released, and total fish harvested by species or species group. Estimates for those totals were calculated by multiplying average number of fish caught, average number of fish released, and average number of fish harvested by the estimated 6,471.9 person-days spent fishing on the Tallapoosa River from May through October 2019 (Table 12).

Table 12. Species of fish caught on Tallapoosa River fishing trips from May-October 2019, average number of species caught per day, average number of species released, average number of species harvested, and estimates of total catch, total release, and total harvest by species or species group (n=91).

SPECIES	Average number of species or species group caught per day	Average number of species or species group released per day	Average number of species or species group harvested per day	Total number of species or species group caught from May-October 2019	Total number of species or species group released from May-October 2019	Total number of species or species group harvested from May-October 2019
Bass (general)	1.1429	1.0000	0.0000	7,396	6,472	0
Alabama/Spotted Bass	2.5824	2.1099	0.4725	16,713	13,655	3,058
Tallapoosa Redeye Bass	1.7912	1.7363	0.0549	11,593	11,237	356
Largemouth Bass	0.3956	0.3846	0.0110	2,560	2,489	71
Bream/Sunfish (general)	0.5604	0.5495	0.0110	3,627	3,556	71
Bluegill	0.2198	0.1099	0.0769	1,422	711	498
Redear Sunfish	0.0110	0.0110	0.0000	71	71	0
Redbreast Sunfish	0.3736	0.1538	0.2198	2,418	996	1,422
Crappie (general)	0.0440	0.0440	0.0000	284	284	0
Black Crappie	0.0110	0.0110	0.0000	71	71	0
Catfish (general)	0.0769	0.0769	0.0000	498	498	0
Blue Catfish	0.2967	0.1758	0.1209	1,920	1,138	782
Channel Catfish	0.3407	0.1758	0.1648	2,205	1,138	1,067
Flathead Catfish	0.0110	0.0110	0.0000	71	71	0
Sum Total	7.8571	6.5595	1.1319	50,851	42,387	7,325

On average, angler parties caught an average of 7.86 fish per day, released an average of 6.56 fish per day, and harvested an average of 1.13 fish per day. Overall, it was estimated that anglers caught 50,851 fish during the study period, released 42,387 fish, and harvested 7,325 fish of various species. These columns are not necessarily additive because someone may have targeted a species group (e.g., bass), and they (or creel clerk) were able to identify the species they harvested (e.g., spotted bass), but they were not able to accurately parse out the species of bass they released. Additionally, anglers were not entirely cooperative about creel clerks looking at their harvested fish and some harvested fish may have gone unreported.

The release rate for all fish caught was high at 83.4 percent and the harvest rate was relatively low at 14.4 percent. Alabama/Spotted bass were the most caught fish during the study period (2.58 per day) and accounted for the highest number of fish caught (16,713) released (13,655) and harvested (3,058) from May through October 2019. However, harvest rates were highest for redbreast sunfish (58.8 percent), channel catfish (48.4 percent), blue catfish (40.7 percent), and bluegill (35.0 percent).

To determine how water level may have affected catch and harvest, I conducted a linear regression with catch and harvest as the dependent variable, respectively, and average water level as the independent variable for every species or species group that had catch reported. Results of all linear regressions for catch were insignificant ($p>0.05$) except for the Alabama/Spotted Bass (Figure 15). Results were significant ($p=0.0071$) and indicated that from the intercept of 6.0772 at zero flow, mean catch decreased by 1.6 fish for every 1000 cfs. However, the R-Squared associated with the model was small (0.0655). Results for all linear regressions for harvest were insignificant; water level had no bearing on the number of any species harvested. When all of the bass species, sunfish species, and catfish species and their species groupings were combined, respectively, I found no significant relationships between catch or harvest and water level for any of the three species groups.

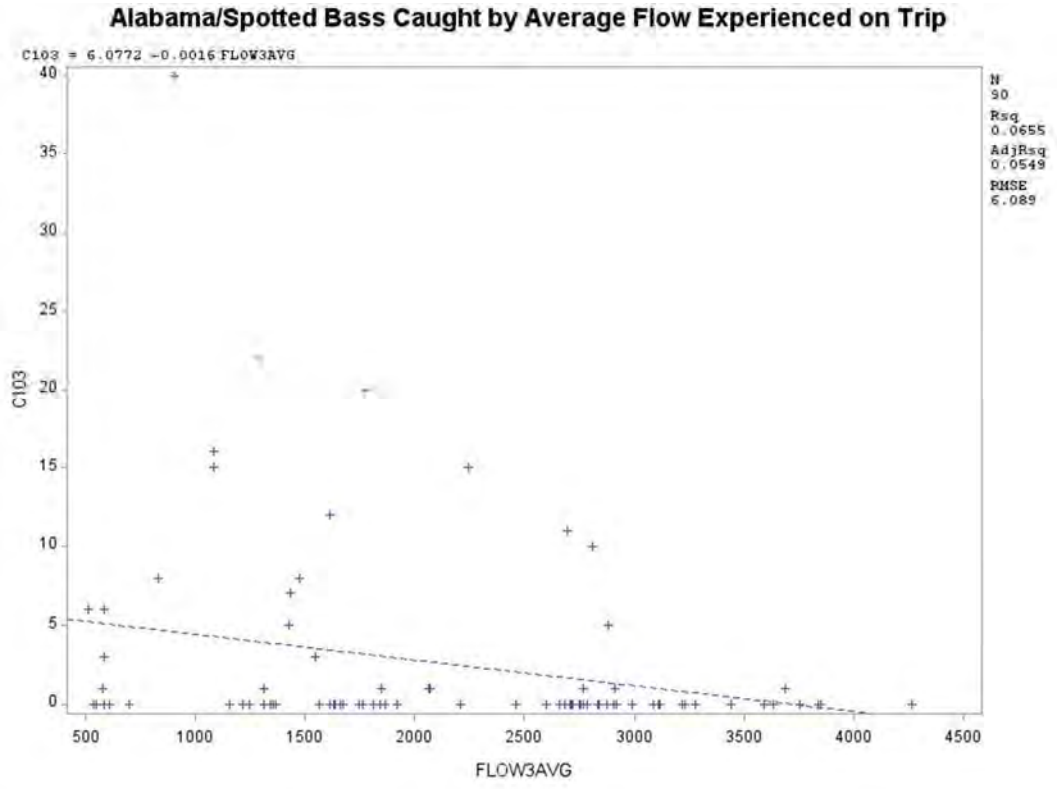

Figure 15. Results of linear regression with number of Alabama/Spotted bass caught (C103) as the dependent variable and predicted average cfs for their entire trip as the independent variable (FLOW3AVG) .

4.0 Conclusions

This study indicated that the Tallapoosa River downstream of the Harris Dam to the upper reaches of Lake Martin is a regional recreational opportunity with nearly 95 percent of use being day trips from 20 mainly local counties in Alabama. Overall recreational effort of those using public access points on the Tallapoosa River from May 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019 was **57,740 hours**. This converts to **11,469 person-days** of river-related recreation that occurred as part of **4,360 actual trips**. This amounts to a daily average of nearly **24 trips** (with one or multiple people) between Harris Dam and Jaybird Landing boat ramp on the 184 days during the study period. Most (82 percent) of recreational user trips occurred on weekends, and the months of May, June, and July accounted for over 74 percent of the overall effort. Nearly 70 percent of all recreational users interviewed during the study period started their trips at Horseshoe Bend, and vehicle counts indicated that 84 percent of effort occurred within the confines of the Harold Banks Canoe Trail. When I investigated effort on the 13 holiday weekend days occurring during the study period, I found that about 24.3 percent of all effort observed during the entire study period occurred on holiday weekends. Based on my observations during the considerable time I spent canvassing the river during the study period, I believe these are reasonable and accurate estimates of recreational use of public access sites on this stretch of the Tallapoosa River.

Kayaking was the was the most popular form of recreational use on the Tallapoosa River during the study period accounting for 60 percent of all person-days of use. Kayaking, canoeing, boat fishing, and shore fishing made up 97 percent of all effort observed during the study period. About 59 percent of all recreational user trips involved recreational fishing. Of those fishing trips, nearly 64 percent of anglers targeted black bass species with Tallapoosa redeye bass (27.5 percent) being the most sought-after species. About 8.8 percent of anglers sought sunfish or catfish species, respectively, and about 17.5 percent indicated they were fishing for “anything” on their trip. Most southern fisheries management agencies I have worked closely with in my career either have a statewide management goal of 0.5 black bass per hour catch rate, or a goal of between 0.5 to 1.0 per hour catch rate when they have enough biological information to make goals for individual water bodies. Observed hourly catch rates for those who targeted black basses in this study ranged from 0.70 (Tallapoosa redeye bass), to above 1.0 (bass general, Alabama/spotted bass, and largemouth bass). As such, catch rates for those anglers who had a target species for black basses show the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam is a quality fishery producing catch rates at the upper end or better of standard fisheries management goals.

The primary objective of this study was to determine how water levels affected river recreation. Five things point to the conclusion that water level did not have any appreciable effect on recreation. First, the majority of recreational users found the water levels acceptable at each water level (499-6110 cfs) observed throughout the study period. Therefore, from the lowest to highest water levels observed, most recreational users found water levels acceptable. As per Figure 1, I was fully anticipating entering this study that I would at least be able to make some determination of “unacceptable”

flows, but the data of the flows observed during the study does not support that determination. Also, because all average acceptability ratings by water level were well above a "marginal flow" rating of five on the 10-point acceptability scale, it is difficult to determine an "optimum flow" or "optimal range" for river recreational use as all ratings appear to be in the optimal flow range.

Second, recreational effort did not appear to be affected by water level. When I compared acceptability ratings and average daily flow on the most used stretch of river (HBMP boat ramp to Jaybird Landing boat ramp) on the 36 sampling days, I did not find any relationship between effort and average daily flow observed between 9:00am and 9:00pm (i.e., the time period I extrapolated vehicle counts to for effort estimates). Further, when I compared average daily flow in the same stretch of river on the 36 sampling days and 148 non-sampling days, I found no significant difference in average daily flows observed between 9:00am and 9:00pm. Therefore, I believe the flows observed on the 36 randomly selected sampling days were representative of days I did not sample. As such, I would expect to have found the same result (no relationship between effort and water level) throughout the entire study period.

Third, over 94 percent of recreational users who had no idea what water level they would encounter on their trip until they arrived at the river that day would have still come to the river had they known. This finding adds further validity to the average acceptability ratings. If average acceptability ratings were not correctly measured, I would have seen this percentage well below 94 percent. Thus, the overwhelming majority of recreational users did not find the water level they observed on their trip as detrimental to their participation. Along these lines, one of the most surprising findings of this study was that 75 percent of recreational users did not check the water level before leaving home. That could be because they are familiar enough with the river and generation schedule to target their trips accordingly, or they are naïve about daily fluctuations in the river, or they just don't care because they are going to the river anyway regardless of what they find. What was even more surprising, however, is that the average water level encountered by those who checked gages and those who didn't were nearly identical. Further, those who checked gages before their trip had no statistical differences with those who didn't in their acceptability ratings, but actually had statistically lower trip satisfaction ratings. Entering this study, I was expecting those who checked gages would have both higher acceptability and satisfaction ratings of their trips.

Fourth, users were highly satisfied with their trip experiences regardless of the water level encountered. I found no significant relationship between satisfaction and water level. Further, over 82 percent of recreational users rated their trip satisfaction level as an eight or higher on the 10-point satisfaction rating scale. That finding by itself is impressive given the changing water level conditions recreational users may encounter during their trips, but what is more impressive is that nearly 45 percent rated their trip satisfaction a perfect "10". Based on my previous research, both of those percentages (82 and 44 percent, respectively) are among the highest levels of satisfaction I have observed on a resource-level study. If water levels were creating significant consternation among

Tallapoosa River recreational users, I would not expect satisfaction ratings to be even close to those observed during the course of the study.

Fifth, only one species of fish (Alabama/Spotted bass) showed any differences in catch rates, and no species showed any differences in harvest rates at various water levels. Therefore, water level didn't appear to have any effect on angler success except for one species. Further, water level only accounted for a small percent of the variance associated with average catch rates for Alabama/Spotted bass indicating water level itself didn't have a strong relationship to catch rates. The inability of some anglers to accurately report catch to species level (through inconsistent species identification or misidentification) limited much the analysis to those who targeted a particular species and may have hampered the ability to detect differences for more than one species. Nevertheless, creel surveys are always hampered by angler's ability to correctly identify species they are fishing for or catch, and whether 100 percent correct classification would have changed results is questionable.

As a result of these five findings, any possible changes in generation schedule by Alabama Power, or implementation of minimum flows being considered in the broader study process are definitely within the range of flows experienced by rivers in this study, and thus would most likely not affect effort, acceptability ratings, satisfaction ratings, or catch and harvest rates appreciably. However, there was still about 20 percent of recreational users who rated the water levels on their trip as "marginal" or "unacceptable", so I anticipate there will always be a few people who may comment or complain about water levels.

Beyond water levels, data from this study indicates that over 75 percent of Tallapoosa River recreational users would like to see more access points, and over 50 percent would like to see improvements to the amenities on their trips. Currently, there is little convenient parking available to recreational users outside of Jaybird Landing boat ramp. What complicates providing increased access beyond existing ones is that the primary ramp used by almost 70 percent of users is located within the confines of the National Park Service's Horseshoe Bend National Military Park. The stretch of river between HBMP boat ramp and Jaybird Landing boat ramp is marketed as the most scenic float on the river; it is also the most accessible ramp from local population centers and is the shortest float in the study area that can be made by a kayaker in as little as two hours. Specifically, one doesn't have to spend the whole day on the river if they do not desire to do so. As a result of these factors, it is the most popular float. Although the HBMP boat ramp is of high quality and the surrounding area well maintained, it only has assigned parking for about 10 vehicles. On high use days that has people parking in grassy areas in the boat ramp area, along a very narrow roadside on Highway 49, or people need to park in the visitor's center about one-quarter of a mile away and across the bridge from the ramp. Therefore, the access at HBMP is currently too small during peak times and expanding that area would be ideal. What is unclear is "Would improving access outside HBMP a) increase use on the entire river, b) divert some effort from HBMP, or c) do nothing to affect effort upstream because HBMP boat ramp to Jaybird Landing boat

ramp is the most desirable stretch of river?" Those questions should be addressed in future assessments of access development.

5.0 Literature Cited

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APPENDIX A

HAROLD BANKS CANOE TRAIL BROCHURE


Harold Banks Canoe Trail
Tallapoosa River
Tallapoosa River
Welcome to the Harold Banks Canoe Trail!
Horseshoe Bend National Military Park
Dadeville
Eagle Creek
Tillier Crossroads
Public Access Points


Important Contact Numbers
Helpful Websites
Extension
TALLAPOOSA RIVER
Irwin Shoals
Peters Island
Camping Notes
Please, leave it BETTER than you found it
Camping permitted
Campsite Etiquette
Horseshoe Bend National Military Park
Horseshoe Bend
Griffin Shoals
Fish Trap
Water Quality
Float Trip Checklist
Tallapoosa Darter
Tallapoosa Redeye Bass
Bluegill
Blacktail Redhorse
Alabama Bass
Blue Catfish

APPENDIX B

CREEL SURVEY DRIVING DIRECTIONS

TALLAPOOSA RIVER USER SURVEY
INSTANTANEOUS COUNT CLOCKWISE ROUTES and DRIVE TIMES

MALONE TO WADLEY

Take left out of ramp onto CR15 and drive 0.4 miles, take hard left and continue on CR15 4.4 miles to HWY 77	TIME: 5 min 09 sec
Take left on HWY 77 and drive 4.2 miles to HWY 22	TIME: 5 min 13 sec
Take left on HWY 22 and drive 0.1 miles. Take left after first bridge on dirt road toward barn. Take right at old tractor into field or park. If you cross Tallapoosa River Bridge, you've gone too far.	TIME: 0 min 22 sec
TOTAL MILES: 9.1	TOTAL TIME: 12 min 50 sec

WADLEY to BIBBY'S FERRY

Take left out of ramp on HWY 22/77 and drive 1.2 miles	TIME: 1 min 43 sec
Take right on HWY 77 and drive 1.8 miles to CR53	TIME: 2 min 33 sec
Take right on CR53 and drive 5.4 miles to CR121	TIME: 6 min 50 sec
Take right at white church on CR121 in Shiloh and drive 1.2 miles	TIME: 1 min 42 sec
Take right at stop on CR123 and drive 1.3 miles. Ramp at dead end	TIME: 2 min 00 sec
TOTAL MILES: 10.9	TOTAL TIME: 15 min 0 sec

BIBBY'S FERRY TO GERMANY'S FERRY

Turn around on CR123 and drive 3.4 miles to CR53	TIME: 4 min 10 sec
Turn right on CR53 and drive 0.2 miles to CR54	TIME: 0 min 30 sec
Take right on CR54 and drive 6.7 miles to CR51	TIME: 8 min 56 sec
Take right on CR51 and drive 1.8 miles to Dudleyville Rd.	TIME: 2 min 24 sec
Take right on Dudleyville Rd. and drive 1.9 miles to Buttston Rd.	TIME: 2 min 30 sec
Take right on Buttston Rd. and drive 2.8 miles to Germany's Ferry Rd. (*Cross Denver Rd. at Intersection*)	TIME: 3 min 55 sec
Take right on Germany's Ferry Rd. and drive 0.7 miles. Ramp is over Tallapoosa River bridge on left (drive under bridge)	TIME: 1 min 05 sec
TOTAL MILES: 17.5	TOTAL TIME: 24 min 0 sec

GERMANY'S FERRY TO HORSESHOE BEND MILITARY PARK

Turn right on Germany's Ferry Road and drive 1.5 miles	TIME: 2 min 07 sec
Turn right on Denver Rd. and drive 1.6 miles	TIME: 2 min 05 sec
Turn right on Elder Road and drive 4.6 miles	TIME: 5 min 36 sec
Take right on Horseshoe Bend Rd (HWY 49) and drive 3.0 miles. Ramp is on left before you cross Tallapoosa River bridge.	TIME: 3 min 43 sec
TOTAL MILES: 10.7	TOTAL TIME: 13 min 40 sec

HORSESHOE BEND MILITARY PARK TO JAY BIRD LANDING

Take right on Horseshoe Bend Rd. (HWY 49) and drive 2.2 miles	TIME: 2 min 51 sec
Take a right on Rock Spring Rd. (Camp ASCCA) and drive 2.8 miles To Boone Valley Rd.	TIME: 3 min 34 sec
Take right on Boone Valley Rd. (*1.2 miles dirt, 0.6 gravel*) to ramp	TIME: 5 min 29 sec
TOTAL MILES: 6.8	TOTAL TIME: 12 min 48 sec

JAY BIRD LANDING TO MALONE

Drive 1.8 miles on Boone Valley Rd. Take left on Rock Springs Rd and drive 2.8 miles. Take left on Horseshoe Bend Rd. (you will cross Tallapoosa River bridge in HBMP) and drive 3.0 miles to CR79. Take right on CR79 and drive 7.9 miles to Daviston. Take right on HWY 22 and drive 8.9 miles to Wadley. Take left on HWY 77 and drive 4.2 miles to CR15. Take right on CR15 and drive 4.8 miles to Malone Ramp. Hard right on CR15 0.4 miles before ramp, but you will stay on CR15. Cross railroad tracks and Tallapoosa River bridge. Ramp is on right.

TOTAL MILES: 31.4 TOTAL TIME: 43 min 0 sec

TOTAL ROUTE MILES: 87.2

TOTAL ROUTE TIME: 2 hours 45 min

TALLAPOOSA RIVER USER SURVEY
INSTANTANEOUS COUNT COUNTER-CLOCKWISE ROUTES/DIRECTIONS

JAY BIRD LAND to HORSESHOE BEND MILITARY PARK

Drive 1.8 miles on Boone Valley Rd. (*1.2 miles dirt, 0.6 gravel*)	TIME: 5 min 29 sec
Take a left on Rock Spring Rd. and drive 2.8 miles	TIME: 3 min 34 sec
Take left on Horseshoe Bend Rd. (HWY 49) and drive 2.2 miles Boat ramp is on the left before you cross Tallapoosa River Bridge	TIME: 2 min 51 sec
TOTAL MILES: 6.8	TOTAL TIME: 12 min 48 sec

HORSESHOE BEND MILITARY PARK to GERMANY'S FERRY

Take right and head back East on HB Rd (HWY 49) and drive 3.0 miles	TIME: 3 min 43 sec
Turn left on Elder Road and drive 4.6 miles	TIME: 5 min 36 sec
Turn left on Denver Rd. and drive 1.6 miles	TIME: 2 min 05 sec
Turn left on Germany's Ferry Rd. and drive 1.5 miles Ramp is over Tallapoosa River Bridge on left (drive under bridge)	TIME: 2 min 07 sec
TOTAL MILES: 10.7	TOTAL TIME: 13 min 40 sec

GERMANY'S FERRY to BIBBY'S FERRY

Take right back over bridge on Germany's Ferry Road and drive 0.7 miles to Buttston Rd.	TIME: 1 min 05 sec
Take left on Buttston and drive 2.8 miles to Dudleyville Rd. (*Cross Denver Rd. at Intersection*)	TIME: 3 min 55 sec
Drive 1.9 miles on Dudleyville Rd. Take left on CR51 @ Grocery	TIME: 2 min 30 sec
Drive 1.8 miles on CR51 to CR54	TIME: 2 min 24 sec
Turn left on CR54 and Drive 6.7 miles to CR53	TIME: 8 min 56 sec
Turn left on CR53 and Drive 0.2 miles to CR123	TIME: 0 min 30 sec
Tur left on CR123 and Drive 3.4 miles (dead ends at ramp)	TIME: 4 min 10 sec
TOTAL MILES: 17.5	TOTAL TIME: 24 min 0 sec

BIBBY'S FERRY to WADLEY

Turn around on CR123 and drive 1.3 miles to CR121	TIME: 2 min 00 sec
Take left on CR121 and drive 1.2 miles to CR53	TIME: 1 min 42 sec
Take left on CR53 and drive 5.4 miles to HWY 77	TIME: 6 min 50 sec
Take left on HWY 77 and drive 1.8 miles to stop sign at HWY 22/77	TIME: 2 min 33 sec
Take left on HWY 22/77 and drive 1.2 miles toward Wadley Go over Tallapoosa River Bridge and take right before second Bridge before you get into Wadley (bridges are close together) on dirt road toward barn, take right at old tractor into field or park	TIME: 1 min 43 sec
TOTAL MILES: 10.9	TOTAL TIME: 15 min 0 sec

WADLEY TO MALONE

Take right out of ramp on HWY 22 and drive 0.1 miles to HWY 77	TIME: 0 min 22 sec
Take right on HWY 77 and drive 4.2 miles to CR15	TIME: 5 min 13 sec
Take right on CR15 and drive 4.4 miles to hard right on CR15 Drive additional 0.4 on CR15 over RR tracks to Tallapoosa River Bridge. Take right over bridge into ramp area	TIME: 5 min 09 sec
TOTAL MILES: 9.1	TOTAL TIME: 12 min 50 sec

MALONE TO JAY BIRD LANDING

Drive 4.8 miles back toward Wadley on CR15. Take left on HWY 77 and drive 4.2 miles to Wadley. Take right on HWY 22 and drive 8.9 miles to CR79 in Daviston. Take left on CR79 and drive 7.3 miles back towards Horseshoe Bend Military Park. Cross Tallapoosa River Bridge and drive 2.2 miles to Rock Springs Rd. Take right on Rock Springs Rd. (Camp ACCOA) and drive 2.8 miles to Boone Valley Rd. Drive 1.8 miles on Boone Valley Rd. to Jay Bird Landing.

TOTAL MILES: 31.4 TOTAL TIME: 43 min 0 sec

TOTAL ROUTE MILES: 87.2

TOTAL ROUTE TIME: 2 hours 45 min

APPENDIX C

VEHICLE COUNT FORM, QUESTIONNAIRE, and CREEL CLERK SCRIPTS & INSTRUCTIONS

2019 TALLAPOOSA RIVER
RECREATION SITE COUNTS

CLERK ID: _____

DATE: _____/_____/2019
(month) (day) (year)

RECREATION SITE NAME: _____

	AT START OF SHIFT	AT END OF SHIFT
TIME	_____:_____ AM or PM (hour) (minute) (circle one)	_____:_____ AM or PM (hour) (minute) (circle one)
WEATHER (CIRCLE ALL NUMBERS THAT APPLY)	1. Sunny 2. Partly Sunny 3. Cloudy 4. Light showers 5. Heavy Rain 6. Windy	1. Sunny 2. Partly Sunny 3. Cloudy 4. Light showers 5. Heavy Rain 6. Windy

VEHICLE COUNT (IF NO VEHICLES ARE OBSERVED WITHIN A CATEGORY, PLEASE ENTER A ZERO (0)).	NUMBER OF VEHICLES		
	WITHOUT BOAT TRAILER OR RACK	WITH BOAT TRAILER	WITH RACK
IN 15 MINUTES AT RAMP			
TOTAL VEHICLES OBSERVED			

2019 TALLAPOOSA RIVER USER SURVEY

RAMP CODES

1. Harris Dam 2. Malone 3. Wadley 4. Bibby's Ferry 5. Germanys Ferry
6. HBMP 7. Jay Bird Landing 8. Private Property 9. Remote River Access

CLERK ID: _____; RAMP CODE: _____ DATE: _____ TIME: _____

1. Number in Vessel/Party _____; Number in Overall Group: _____

2. Interviewee: Male or Female; Age: _____ HOME ZIP CODE: _____

3. What was your primary activity today? (***Circle one)***
   1. Shore fishing 2. Tubing 3. Swimming 4. Boating 5. Boat Fishing
   6. Canoeing 7. Canoe Fishing 8. Kayaking 9. Kayak Fishing 10. Other

4. What time and where did you start your activity ? START TIME _____ RAMP CODE _____ ***(1-6 Ask Q#5***

5. Did you leave a vehicle at starting ramp? YES NO -- ***If NO, who dropped you off***: OUTFITTER OTHER

6. Is this the destination for your trip today?

   YES -- (***If Floater Go to Question #8; If activity started at current ramp ask <u>END TIME</u> in Question #7***)
   NO -- (***Go to Question #7***)

7. What time and where will you be finishing your trip today? _____ END TIME _____ RAMP CODE

8. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being "**VERY UNACCEPTABLE**" and 10 being "**VERY ACCEPTABLE**", how would you rate the water level <u>right now</u>? *If floater <u>(boater/canoer/kayaker)</u> also ask: at start of trip & entire trip and put response in appropriate lines below, then get ratings of others in party for "right now"*

   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

   START ____; ENTIRE _____ ***RATINGS OF OTHERS IN PARTY "RIGHT NOW"*** *_____; _____; _____; _____;*

9. Did you check the USGS water gauges or call Alabama Power to see what the water level would be before your trip today?

   YES – (***Go to Question #11)*** 2 NO – (***Go to Question #10)***

10. If you knew the water level in the river was going to be exactly what you experienced today <u>BEFORE</u> you made your trip, would you have still made your trip today? YES NO

11. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being "**VERY DISSATISFIED**" and 10 being "**VERY SATISFIED**", how satisfied were you with your <u>entire trip</u> on the river today?

    1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

12. Would you like to see more access points for recreation on the Tallapoosa River? YES NO

13. ***(For floaters only)*** Would you like to see any additional amenities for use on float trips? YES NO

    If YES, what amenities would you most prefer to see on the river?

_____

_____

IF FISHING TRIP, COMPLETE BELOW TABLE: ASK WHAT SPECIES THEY TARGETED, HOW MANY HOURS THEY FISHED FOR EACH TARGETED SPECIES, AND NUMBER OF FISH CAUGHT, RELEASED AND HARVESTED FOR EACH SPECIES THEY CAUGHT (WHETHER TARGET SPECIES OR NOT). GET LENGTHS IN MILLIMETERS ON HARVESTED FISH AND PUT IN SECOND TABLE.

SPECIES	SPECIES CODE	TARGET SPECIES (PUT CHECK)	HOURS FISHED FOR TARGET	NUMBER CAUGHT	NUMBER RELEASED	NUMBER HARVESTED
ANYTHING	101					
BASS (General)	102					
ALABAMA/SPOTTED BASS	103					
TALLAPOOSA REDEYE BASS	104					
LARGEMOUTH BASS	105					
BREAM/SUNFISH (GENERAL)	106					
BLUEGILL	107					
REDEAR	108					
REDBREAST	109					
CRAPPIE (GENERAL)	110					
WHITE CRAPPIE	111					
BLACK CRAPPIE	112					
CATFISH (GENERAL)	113					
BLUE CATFISH	114					
CHANNEL CATFISH	115					
FLATHEAD CATFISH	116					
BULLHEAD CATFISH	117					
WHITE BASS	118					
HYBRID STRIPED BASS	119					
STRIPED BASS	120					
BOWFIN	121					
CARP	122					
BLACKTAIL REDHORSE	123					

SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (MM)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (MM)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (MM)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (MM)

2019 Tallapoosa River User Survey Script & Instructions

IDENTIFYING PARTIES:

EACH INDIVIDUAL VESSEL (BOAT, CANOE, KAYAK, TUBE) ENCOUNTERED IS ONE "PARTY". FOR EXAMPLE, A SOLO KAYAKER IS A PARTY OF ONE EVEN IF THEY ARRIVE AT THE RAMP WITH TWO OTHER KAYAKERS WHO ARE PART OF THE SAME GROUP. IN THIS CASE YOU WOULD TRY TO INTERVIEW ALL THREE PARTIES. ONLY IF A VESSEL HAS MULTIPLE PEOPLE IN IT DO YOU CHOOSE THE ONE WITH THE CLOSESET BIRTHDAY TO INTERVIEW. SAME GOES FOR BANK FISHING PARTIES AND SWIMMERS WITH A MULTI-PERSON GROUP.

SCRIPT FOR SURVEY TEAM CLERK

Hello, my name is _____ and I work for Kleinschmidt Associates. We are conducting a study of Tallapoosa recreationists for Alabama Power as part of the Relicensing of Harris Dam, and we would like to ask you a few questions about your trip today and your attitudes about river conditions. (***Pause to get confirmation. If they decline, thank them and move to next party. If they agree then proceed to Questionnaire if the person is <u>alone</u> or ask the following if more than one in group.***). We will ask each of you a question about the river level today, but for scientific purposes, I need to speak primarily with the person with the closest birthday to today (***let group determine that and then move to Questionnaire once identified***). Thank you for your help (***proceed to questionnaire***)

QUESTIONNAIRE INSTRUCTIONS/HELPFUL HINTS

It is extremely important that you complete the questions ABOVE question 1; Input your specific CLERK ID provided by your supervisor. Use Ramp Code at top of survey for this section, and Questions #4 and #7. Time of interview is critical as it also serves as END TIME for floaters who don't get asked Question #7.

Most of the questionnaire is straight forward except for Questions #4 through #7 and you need to pay close attention to the **bolded text**.

Question #5 only gets asked to interviewee if Question #4 starting ramp was RAMP CODE 1-6. If RAMP CODE is 7, 8, or 9 Go to Question #6

Question #6/#7. If the person is a Floater (boat, tuber, canoe, or kayak) who started <u>at any other ramp than the one you are currently at</u>, and they say YES to Question #6, then go to Question #8. However, if the activity originated at the current ramp, but they have not completed their activity for the day (such as a bank angler who arrived near the end of the shift, or a boater who came in for lunch), it is critical that you get the anticipated END TIME for their activity that day in Question #7. No need to get RAMP CODE for these people. If person says NO to Question #6, ask all of Question #7

Question #8: For the person you are interviewing, you need to get water level acceptability rating for RIGHT NOW, AT START OF TRIP, and OVER THE ENTIRE TRIP. Once you get that information, ask the other individuals in the party (if any) how they would rate the water level RIGHT NOW. That is the only information you need to get from anyone else in the party.

Question #9/#10: If they checked the water level before their trip, there is no reason to ask Question #10, because by default they knew what it was and came anyway and that would be an automatic YES (but leave Question #10 blank and go to Question #11). Question #10 is only relevant for someone who said NO to Question #9

Question #13: If they say YES, when you ask them What "amenities would you most prefer to see on the river?", DO NOT GIVE THEM ANY IDEAS (such as say other people have said they would like to see camping area). Let them indicate their preferences. Giving them ideas will bias the results on this question.

FISH INFORMATION ON BACK OF FORM :

The specific questions for the back page are imbedded in the instructions above the table. Make sure you ask the person:

What species were you targeting today?

There may be more than 1; if they don't give a specific species like "spotted bass" and say "bass" or say "bream" instead of "bluegill", you should not try to guess what species. You would check "Bass (General)" or "Bream/Sunfish (General)" for target species.

How many hours did you fish for <u>each</u> targeted species?

There should be an hours fished for each species or general category you check. The angler needs to break their time down. You can refresh their memory on how many hours they fished that day from the first page if you must.

How many fish did you catch, release and harvest for <u>each</u> species they caught?

If they don't know the exact species of bass they caught and released, for example, put those in the "Bass (General)" row on the data sheet. But, if they harvested any bass, you should use should put NUMBER HARVESTED in the proper row, e.g. Spotted Bass. Use your Fish Identification Reference manual unless you are absolutely sure of species.

MAKE SURE YOU MEASURE EACH HARVESTED FISH AND PUT IN THE SECOND TABLE. ONLY RECORD LENGTH IN MILLIMETERS BUT TELL THE ANGLER THE CORESSPONDING LENGTH IN INCHES SO THEY KNOW WHAT THAT WAS.

APPENDIX D

OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES TO QUESTION #13 ON 2019 TALLAPOOSA RIVER USER SURVEY

"What amenities would you most prefer to see on the river?"

1001
BATHROOM

1004
ADDING A STOP

1005
CLEANER CAMPSITES

1008
LONGER HOURS FOR HBMP BOAT RAMP & VISITOR CENTER

1010
RESTROOM AT JAYBIRD

1015
ROPE SWINGS

1020
STOPPING SPOTS

1022
STOPPING SPOTS

1023
STOPPING SPOTS. CANOE SLIDES. ROPES TO TIE OFF/PULL UP CANOES AT RAMPS

1024
ROPES TO TIE OFF/PULL UP CANOES AT RAMPS. RESTROOMS

1025
TRASHCANS AT JAYBIRD CREEK

1026
BIGGER HORSESHOE BEND RAMP, SEPARATE KAYAK/BOAT ACCESS

1030
MORE ACCESS POINTS. BOAT RAMP NEAR MALONE. PUBLIC RAMP BELOW HARRIS DAM

1034
MORE CAMPING AND ACCESS

1035
MORE CAMPING AND ACCESS

1037
PUBLIC RESTROOMS

1039
PUBLIC RESTROOMS

1042
SHUTTLE SERVICE

1043
MORE REGULATED WATER FLOW ESPECIALLY ON WEEKENDS

1049
PUBLIC RESTROOM. VENDING MACHINE.

1050
DESIGNATED CAMP SPOTS. MARKERS.

1051
RESTROOMS

1052
RESTROOMS

1053
MAP ACCESS

1054
BETTER CANOE RAMPS

1055
BATHROOMS

1056
BATHROOMS

1057
PUBLIC RESTROOMS

1058
SMOOTH ACCESS ROAD (JAYBIRD)

1060
RESTROOMS

1065
ONLINE GUIDE FOR NAVIGATION WOULD TELL YOU BEST WAYS TO NAVIGATE SHOALS (I.E. RIVER LEFT, RIVER RIGHT)

1066
ONLINE NAVIGATION. MILE MARKERS

1067
BATHROOM. SHELTER.

1069
RESTROOMS

1071
PARKING

1072
CAMPING SPOTS WITH POWER HOOKUPS

1074
PLACES TO PULL OFF AND EAT/CAMP

1075
BETTER ROADS, TRASH RECEPTACLES, BATHROOMS

1076
BETTER ROADS. SHOOTING

1077
SHUTTLE SERVICE

1079
TRASH CANS. BATHROOMS.

1084 (ADDITIONAL)
REGULATED WATER FLOW

1085
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1087
VENDING MACHINES. RESTROOMS

1088
PUBLIC CAMPING ALONG RIVER

1090
BATHROOMS

1091
MORE SIGNS OR LAND MARKINGS ALONG THE RIVER

1097
RESTROOMS WITH MAINTENANCE

1100
BATHROOMS

1101
BATHROOMS

1103
TRASHCANS. BATHROOMS

1104
BATHROOMS

1105
BATHROOMS. PARKING

1108
BATHROOMS. PITSTOPS

1110
BATHROOMS

1111
BATHROOMS

1112
BATHROOMS

1115
TRASHCANS

1116
BATHROOMS

1117

RESTROOMS

1119
BATHROOMS; IMPROVED

1120
BATHROOMS

1123
ZIPLINE

1124
DEDICATED CAMPSITES

1128
RAMP BETWEEN HORSESHOE BEND MILITARY PARK AND GERMANY'S FERRY

1133
BATHROOMS

1334
ELECTRICAL PLUGS

1138
MORE ACCESS POINTS SO THE RIVER ISN'T SO CROWDED

1147
CAMPSITES

1148
BATHROOMS

1153
B0AT RAMPS

1155
TRASH CAN

1163
RESTROOM

1164
EXTRA STOPS FOR DRINKS WOULD BE GOOD. DRINKING WATER AREAS

1165
MORE STOPPING POINTS, RESTING AREAS

1166
MORE PARKING AT HORSESHOE BEND, LEAVING VEHICLE BEHIND THERE IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, NOT NEAR ENOUGH SPACE

1167
BATHROOMS ALONG THE WAY

1169
BETTER LAUNCH AREAS FOR KAYAKERS – CEMENT, ROCK ARE TERRIBLE FOR THE VESSELS. ALSO AREA TO LEAVE/DROP THE KAYAKS, ETC… WHEN PUTTING IN/OUT – A GRASSY AREA OR SANDY AREA IS BEST. ROCKS TO HOLD THEM OFF GROUND

1170
PLACE TO GET WATER/BEVERAGES – "ICE CREAM BOAT"

1172
PARKING AT HORSESHOE BEND COULD BE EXPANDED – IT'S VERY POPULAR – BIGGER

1173
"LONG DROP", OUT HOUSE, SOMETHING PRIMITIVE WOULD BE PERFECT. TRASH PICKUP.

1174
WIDER LAUNCH, MORE ROOM. GETS VERY CROWDED. TRASH CANS.

1176
TRASH CANS. CAMPING AREAS.

1177
MORE PLACES TO CAMP WITH POSTS ALLOWING FOR HAMMOCKS AND LONGER STOPPING. BATHROOMS.

1179
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1185
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1186
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1188
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1194
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1197
RESTROOMS/PORT-A-POTTY

1201
KEEP CITY AWAY FROM RIVER

1204
NOPE, LIKE THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE

1205
TRASHCANS

1207
MORE PLACES TO STOP WHEN FLOATING

1208
LOCKERS

APPENDIX E

CREEL SURVEY EFFORT EQUATIONS

I used the bus route counts to estimate E_{jwm} as

$Ejwm = T * \Sigma(vi/ti) * g_{wm}$

where

E_{jwm} = effort in terms of user hours in day j of stratum w (week or weekend) in month m
T = day length (h), fixed at 12 h
v_i = total vehicle time observed during the halt at stop i (h; estimated as average number of vehicles during the stop multiplied by t_i)
t_i = waiting time at stop i (h) – assumed 15 min allocated to counting vehicles
g_{wm} = average group size in stratum w and month m

Next calculate the mean ($\overline{E_{wm}}$) variance (v_{wm}) of E_{jwm} by month and week/weekend day strata:

$$\overline{E_{wm}} = \sum E_{jwn}/n_{wm}$$

$$v_{wm} = \frac{\sum {E_{jwn}}^2 - \left(\sum E_{jwn}\right)^2/n_{wm}}{n_{wm} - 1}$$

where n_{wm} = number of days sampled in stratum w and month m

Next I calculated the mean daily effort per month ($\overline{E_m}$) as

$$\overline{E_m} = \sum N_{wm}\overline{E_{wm}}/N_m$$

where
N_{wm} = total number of days in month m and stratum w, and
N_m = total number of days in month m

Next I calculated the variance of daily effort per month (v_m) as

$$v_m = \sum (W_{wm}^2 v_{wm}/n_{wm}) - \sum \left(W_{wm} v_{wm}/N_m\right)$$

where

$W_{wm} = N_{wm} / N_m$

The term after the negative sign in the v_m equation above represents the reduction in v_m due to the finite population correction, which was applied because the potential number of sampling days was not large.

The square root of v_m is the standard error of $\overline{E_m}$.

Total effort for the month (E_m) is

$$E_m = N_m \, \overline{E_m}$$

and the standard error for E_m (SE_m) is

$$SE_m = N_m \sqrt{v_m}$$

E_m and SE_m were used to estimate monthly confidence limits

APPENDIX F

TALLAPOOSA RIVER DOWNSTREAM LANDOWNER SURVEY

Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey Report



Prepared for Kleinschmidt Associates
& Alabama Power
By
Dr. Kevin M. Hunt
Private Consultant

Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey Report

Conducted by:

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for

Kleinschmidt Associates
and
Alabama Power
Birmingham, Alabama

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KMH

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1.0 Introduction

Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power) initiated the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the 135-megawatt (MW) R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (Harris Project), FERC Project No. 2628 in 2018. The Harris Project consists of a dam, spillway, powerhouse, and those lands and waters necessary for the operation of the hydroelectric project and enhancement and protection of environmental resources. As part of the relicensing effort, Alabama Power is conducting a Recreation Evaluation Study to describe the existing Harris Project recreation facilities, discuss current and future use estimates, and evaluate the need for additional recreational facilities at the Harris Project in the future. The study has two main components: recreational use of the Harris Project (i.e., Lake Harris and public lands upstream of the dam) and recreational use of the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam. The latter originally included one study, the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey. However, during the course of that study, it was apparent that local landowners with property adjacent to the river were not being well-represented. Thus, a new study was requested and developed in consultation with Harris Action Team (HAT)-5 stakeholders to capture information from downstream landowners about recreational use on their property and associated river-related issues.

1.1 Study Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey Study was to determine how landowners in Randolph, Chambers, and Tallapoosa counties who own property along the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam use it for recreational purposes, how instream flow affects their recreational activity, and their attitudes toward various aspects that may affect their recreational satisfaction in the study area.

To achieve this goal, the four objectives were to:

1) Identify downstream landowners and obtain their mailing address.

2) Develop a survey instrument (mail and internet-based) that would collect information from downstream landowners on their recreational use of the Tallapoosa River from January through December 2019, use by others they may provide access to on their property in that same timeframe, landowner perception of instream flow, and their attitudes about recreation and other resource issues on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing Boat Ramp.

3) Send landowners an introductory pre-survey letter via first-class mail informing them of the study, followed one week later with a first-class mailing with a request to complete the enclosed questionnaire (or complete it online via SurveyMonkey®). One reminder letter with another copy of the questionnaire was sent, as necessary, three weeks later.

4) Employ information collected from the landowners who completed the survey instrument to characterize their use of the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing Boat Ramp from January through December 2019 and precise information on river flow provided by Alabama Power to determine how instream flow affects their recreational use and satisfaction on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam.

1.2 Study Area

For purposes of this study, a downstream landowner was defined as one owning residential, vacation, agricultural, forested, or vacant land beginning at the R.L. Harris Dam (Harris Dam) in Randolph County, Alabama traveling southward through Chambers County, and then into Tallapoosa County until the river reaches Lake Martin near the Jaybird Landing Boat Ramp maintained by Alabama Power.

2.0 Methods

2.1 Sampling Frame

In January 2020, Alabama Power provided me with a county tax record database of 448 land parcels that were adjacent to the Tallapoosa River in Randolph, Chambers, and Tallapoosa Counties. Of the 448 land parcels, 158 were located in Randolph County, 150 were located in Tallapoosa County, and 90 were located in Chambers County.

Out of the 448 land parcels in the landowner database, 94 were excluded from this study. This included 41 parcels owned by Alabama Power, 22 parcels owned by the State of Alabama, 10 parcels owned by the Federal Government, one cemetery parcel, one county owned parcel, and 19 parcels that had no ownership information provided.

The remaining 352 parcels were sorted alphabetically to determine whether the same landowner owned multiple parcels. This resulted in 223 individuals/trusts/businesses/or LLCs (henceforth referred to as landowners) being identified in the study area. The county of residence for landowners in the final sample was n=79 from Chambers County (35.4 percent); n=90 from Randolph County (40.4 percent); and n=54 from Tallapoosa County (24.2 percent). Each of the 223 landowners in the final sample were targeted to receive the self-administered questionnaire.

2.2 Self-administered Questionnaire

I developed a self-administered questionnaire in both paper and online formats for use in this study (Appendix A). The questionnaire was developed in close cooperation with personnel from Alabama Power and Kleinschmidt Associates, and it was developed with input by the HAT-5 stakeholder group.

The questionnaire began with a lead-in statement informing the landowner they were selected for this study because they were a residential, vacation, agricultural or forest

landowner, or were the owner of vacant property on the Tallapoosa River that could be used for river-related recreation. Because some landowners owned multiple parcels in the study area, they were asked to complete the questionnaire based on the land parcel on which they resided or used as a vacation destination if they didn't reside on one of their parcels. If they neither resided nor vacationed at one of their parcels, they were asked to complete the survey based on their most upstream property.

First, landowners were asked how many years they had owned their property, and what the primary uses of that property were: permanent home residence, seasonal/vacation home, recreational use, timber production, agricultural production, vacant property with no designated use, and other. Landowners were asked to indicate all that applied to their property in question.

Landowners were then asked to indicate which of 10 river-related recreation activities they participated in from their property on the Tallapoosa River. These included shore or wade fishing, swimming, tubing/rafting, boating (non-fishing), fishing from a boat, canoeing (non-fishing), canoe fishing, kayaking (non-fishing), kayak fishing, and scenic/wildlife viewing. For those who indicated they participated in one or more river-related recreation activities, they were asked to specify which activity was their favorite to participate in from their property. Next, landowners who recreated on their property were asked to indicate how many days they participated in all of the recreation activities combined, and for their favorite activity from January through December 2019. If they indicated they didn't participate in any of the activities that were listed, they were directed to a point later in the questionnaire.

Landowners were then asked whether they checked the Tallapoosa River USGS water level gages or Alabama Power generation schedule before planning their favorite activity on their property. Next, they were asked, in general, if there was a time of day where they find the water level most acceptable to them for their favorite activity. If yes, they were asked to specify a time. Similarly, landowners were asked if there was a month during the year that they found most acceptable to them for their favorite activity. If yes, they were asked to specify which month.

Next, landowners were asked if they allowed people other than individuals who lived with them to participate in river-related recreation from their property. If yes, they were asked to indicate their relationship to them: extended family or relatives, friends, renters, business associates/employees, hunting or fishing lease holders, and other. Landowners were then asked how many people, including themselves, they knew of who accessed their property from January through December 2019 for the purposes of river-related recreation.

Landowners were then asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with nine attitudinal statements regarding their experiences on the Tallapoosa River. Response format was 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, and 5=strongly agree. Attitudinal statements were "I am concerned with bank erosion on my property along the Tallapoosa River", "I believe the water quality on the Tallapoosa

River near my property is good", "I believe the variety and abundance of aquatic organisms (fish, reptiles, amphibians) in the Tallapoosa River near my property is good", "I believe the variety and abundance of wildlife populations on the banks of the Tallapoosa River near my property is good", "The overall health of the Tallapoosa River on my property is good", "I believe there is sufficient public access on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam for recreational purposes", "Most of the encounters I have with Tallapoosa River recreationists who pass by my property are pleasant ones", "Most Tallapoosa River recreationists are respectful of my property and property rights", and "I am concerned with people I do not know accessing my property from the Tallapoosa River".

Next, landowners were asked, based on their experiences, to rate the conditions of the Tallapoosa River around their property after Alabama Power changed the Harris Project operations in 2005. Response categories were worse, better, same, or "I don't know, I didn't own the property before 2005".

A postage-paid postcard was included in the survey packet sent to landowners (Appendix B) that asked landowners, if they were able, to go to the river on their property at their convenience and complete the requested information: date, time, what is their favorite river-related recreation activity at this spot on the river, and to indicate on a 10-point scale how acceptable the water level was right now for their favorite activity (1=very unacceptable and 10=very acceptable). In the questionnaire, landowners were asked if they would be able to complete the postcard and send it back by April 15, 2020. If the postcard was returned, I asked Kleinschmidt Associates to provide me with a specific flow (in cubic feet per second, cfs) at that parcel at the date and time specified for analysis purposes. Kleinschmidt Associates was only provided with parcel information; no other identifying landowner information was provided.

Kleinschmidt Associates calculated specific flow using data gathered for the relicensing of the R.L. Harris Dam and the Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) model. Water level and channel geometry were measured using 20 water level loggers and >200 bathymetry transects, respectively, between R.L. Harris Dam and Jaybird Landing. The data were used with HEC-RAS to generate a model of river discharge, which was capable of reporting the specific flow at individual bathymetry transects at specific times. This was used to match specific flow values to landowners' ratings of the water level.

Finally, landowners were provided space in the questionnaire to provide open-ended comments to two questions: "Is there anything else you would like to share with Alabama Power specifically regarding recreation on the Tallapoosa River?", and "Is there anything in general you would like to share with Alabama Power regarding the R.L. Harris Dam Relicensing Process or Tallapoosa River?". Responses were typed as is, except I removed any mention of individual names, addresses, or phone numbers to protect the confidentiality of each landowner. Open-ended responses to these questions can be found in Appendix D & E, respectively.

Data entry was conducted after Day 90 of data collection and was checked by two project personnel to avoid transcriptional error (Hunter and Schmidt 1990).

2.3 Survey Implementation and Response Rate

As per the Tailored Design Method (Dillman et al. 2014) for mixed mode surveys (paper questionnaire with option to complete online), we contacted landowners up to three times, as necessary, to achieve a response. On Day 1 of the survey (2/03/2020), landowners were sent a pre-survey letter from Alabama Power informing them of the study and that they would be receiving a survey in the mail in about a week and be provided with a link to SurveyMonkey® to complete online if they desired. On Day 8 of the survey (2/10/2020), I sent each landowner a personalized mailing that included a cover letter reiterating the purpose of the study, a copy of the questionnaire, and a postage-paid business reply envelope (i.e., complete packet). If the landowner did not return their initial questionnaire or complete online, they were sent a second complete packet as necessary on Day 28 of the study (3/02/2020). All survey correspondence can be found in Appendix C to this report. Survey responses were accepted until Day 90 of the study (05/03/2020). Due to an oversight, 50 of the 223 landowners whose land was classified as forestry land didn't receive their first survey mailing until 3/02/2020. They were sent their second survey mailing on 3/24/2020 and given until 4/30/2020 to complete their postcard.

Of the 223 landowners who were asked to participate in the study, 106 responded to the mail survey for a raw response rate of 47.5 percent. When non-deliverables (n=16) were excluded from consideration, an effective response rate of **51.2 percent** was obtained (Table 1). Returned questionnaires were checked for completeness of response and six responses were excluded (non-eligible) for analysis due to their refusal to participate (n=3), or they indicated they no longer owned their property (n=3; Figure 1). This left n=100 survey responses for analysis purposes.

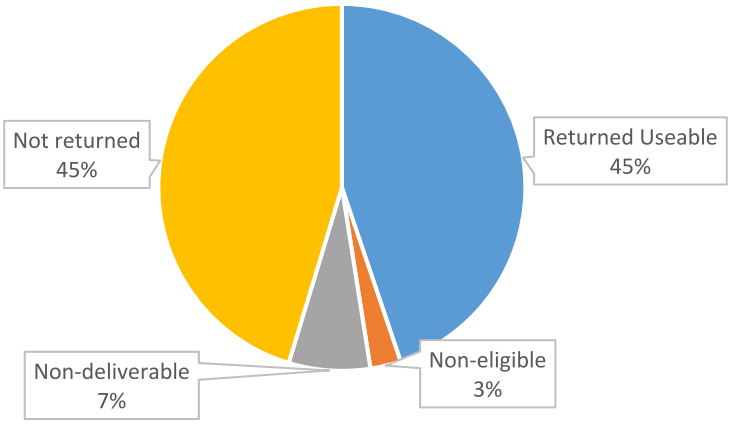

Figure 1. Raw response rate for the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey

2.4 Statistical Tests Used in Analysis of Landowner Surveys

Various descriptive and statistical tests were used in the evaluation of study data. Descriptive statistics including frequency distributions and means were computed using SAS Version 9.4 (SAS Institute 2016) or similar tools available in Microsoft Excel®. To determine the effect of flow on acceptability of water level provided by the landowner, a simple linear regression was conducted with acceptability as the dependent variable and flow (cfs) calculated by the HEC-RAS model at the date and time the postcard was completed by the landowner as the independent variable using SAS Version 9.4.

Linear regression is similar to correlation in that the purpose is to measure to what extent there is a linear relationship between two variables. Specifically, the purpose is to predict the value of the dependent variables based upon the value of the independent variable(s). Since the objectives of this question was to determine if instream flow (cfs) affected acceptability, I felt this was the most appropriate statistical procedure to use to evaluate objectives. Because the acceptability is technically ordinal and not continuous measures, I investigated using logistic regression for this analyses. However, to do so the original values on the 10-point scales needed to be collapsed into five or fewer categories to provide enough sample size per category. Additionally, it would have disrupted the integrity of the scale as I would have to force the marginal value of "5" to be combined with an acceptable value of "6" for the analysis. Further, for the acceptability scale, the lowest combined category of "1" and "2" would have had zero observations. Both analyses produce similar results in terms of statistical significance, so I felt this violation of assumptions was necessary to adequately address the objectives. Results of all of the acceptability analyses were compared to a hypothetical flow evaluation curve developed by Whittaker and Shelby (2002; Figure 2) in an attempt to determine an acceptable flow range for landowner river-related recreation activities.

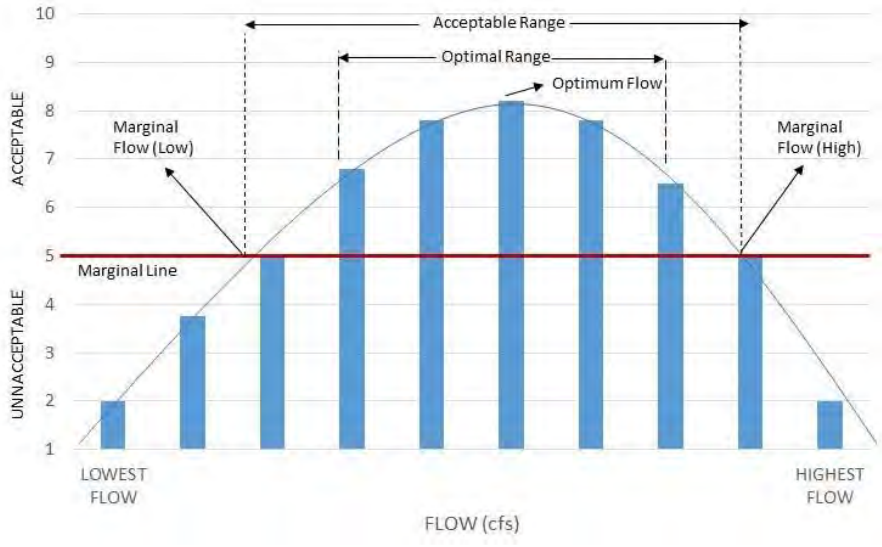

Figure 2. Hypothetical flow evaluation curve adapted from Whittaker and Shelby (2002).

3.0 Results

3.1 Landowner and Property Characteristics

Of the 223 landowners who were sent the survey, n=100 responded with useable data. The breakdown of respondents by county of residence can be found in Figure 3. Tallapoosa County landowners represented 30 percent of respondents but were only 24 percent of the sample; Chambers County landowners represented 34 percent of respondents (35 percent of sample), and Randolph County landowners represented 36 percent of respondents (40 percent of sample). Therefore, results presented in this report slightly over-represent Tallapoosa County landowners and slightly under-represent Randolph County landowners. Nevertheless, proportionately, respondents were relatively reflective of the sample.

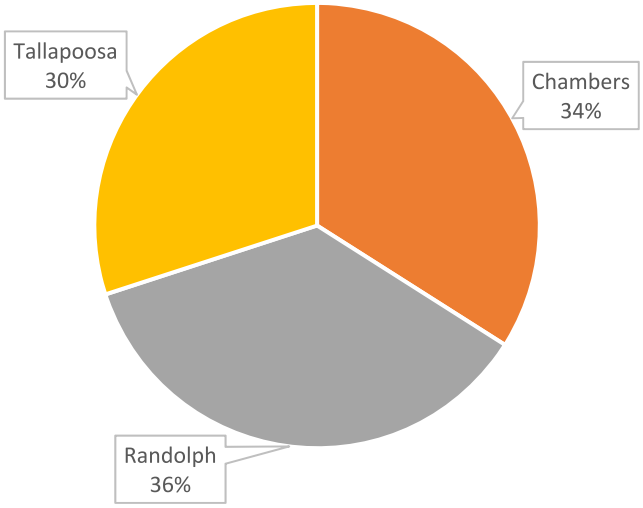

Figure 3. Percent of respondents to the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey; by county of residence (n=100).

Landowners indicated they owned their property an average of 25.2 years. However, this is somewhat misleading as some landowners indicated they responded to this question based on the number of years the property was in family rather than personal ownership. Therefore, the median years of ownership (20 years) better reflects the distribution of years of ownership. Figure 4 presents years of ownership by year category; the modal year of ownership (27.37 percent) was 10-19 years.

Landowners indicated their properties had multiple primary uses. When landowners were asked to indicate the primary uses of their property, 66 percent indicated they used their land for recreational use, 42 percent indicated it was used as a vacation home, 29 percent indicated it was their permanent home residence, 27 percent indicated it was used for timber production, 23 percent indicated agricultural production and 4 percent indicated

vacant or other use. The "other" was specified as collection of American Indian artifacts (Figure 5).

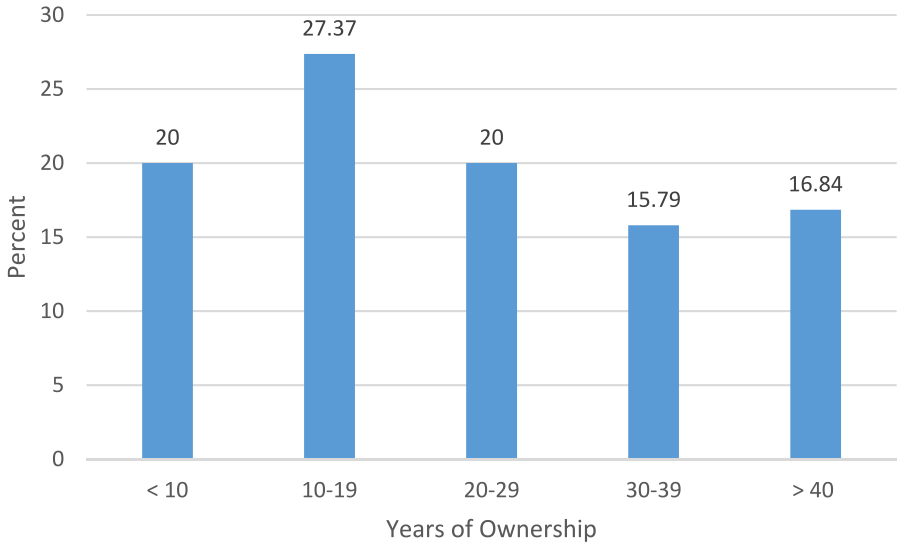

Figure 4. Percent of Tallapoosa River landowners by how many years they have owned their property; by year category (n=95).

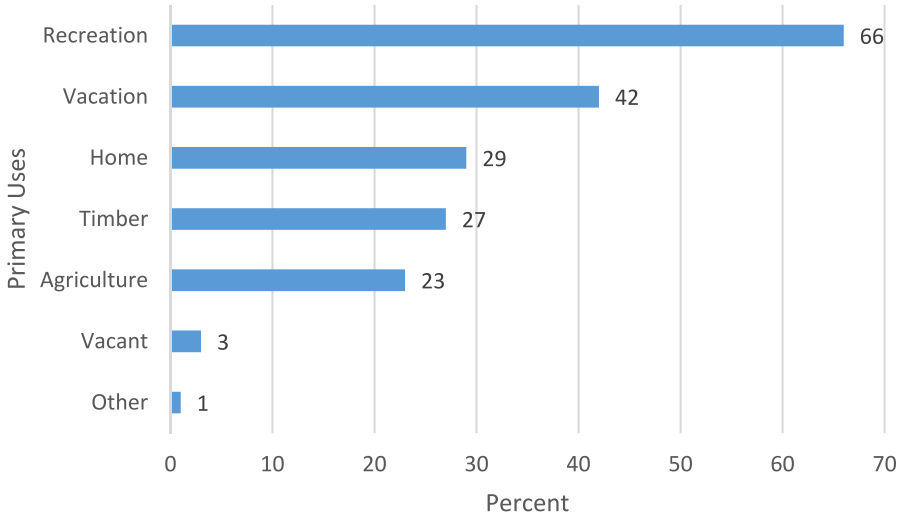

Figure 5. Percent of Tallapoosa River landowners by primary uses of their property (n=100).

3.2 Recreational Use on Tallapoosa River Landowner Properties

When landowners were asked to indicate what types of river-related recreation they personally engaged in on the Tallapoosa River from their property, they indicated they

participated in a variety of recreational activities. Six activities were enjoyed by over one-half of landowners (Figure 6): swimming (68 percent), shore or wade fishing (68 percent), scenic/wildlife viewing (63 percent), boat fishing (58 percent), and kayaking (53 percent). Only nine percent of landowners indicated they didn't participate in any of the listed recreational activities.

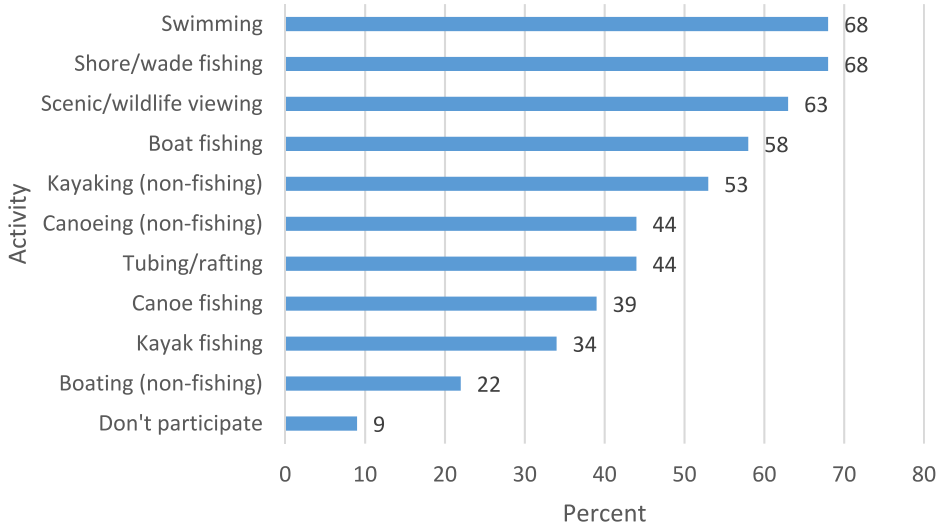

Figure 6. Percent of Tallapoosa River landowners by recreational activity they participate in on their property (n=100).

When landowners were asked to indicate how many days they participated in all recreational activities combined on their property, they reported participating an average of 55.7 days (median=22 days). Extrapolating to the 223 landowners in the entire sample, it was estimated landowners in the study area exhibited about **12,421 person-days** of recreation during 2019.

When those who indicated they participated in river-related recreation from their property were asked to indicate which recreational activity was their personal favorite to participate in from their property, 30 percent indicated boat fishing and 17.78 percent each indicated shore or wade fishing and scenic/wildlife viewing (Figure 7). Overall, nearly 59 percent of landowners indicted their favorite activity included some form of recreational fishing.

When landowners were asked to indicate how many days they participated in their favorite recreational activity on their property, they reported participating an average of 33.4 days (median=15 days). Extrapolating to the 223 landowners in the entire sample, it was estimated landowners in the study area exhibited about **7,448 person-days** of recreation during 2019 in their favorite activity.

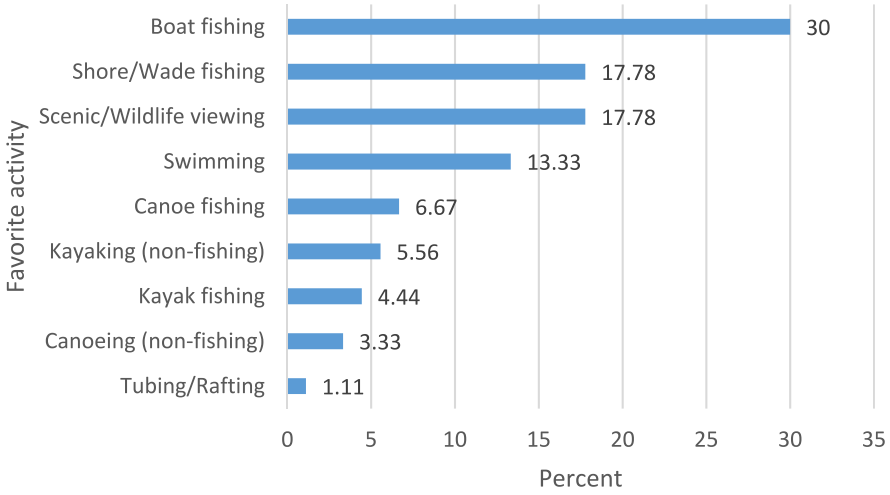

Figure 7. Percent of Tallapoosa River landowners by their favorite river-related recreation activity to do from their property (n=90).

About 87 percent of landowners indicated they allowed people other than individuals they live with to participate in river-related recreation from their property. When asked to indicate the relationship of those individuals to them, 79 percent allowed extended family/relatives, 69 percent allowed friends, and 8 percent each allowed hunting/fishing lease holders and business associates/employees to access the Tallapoosa River from their property to engage in river-related recreation. Only one percent indicated they allowed renters, and one percent indicated "Other", primarily because one of the public access points is within the confines of their property.

When asked to indicate the number of individuals, including themselves who accessed their property for river-related recreation, landowners estimated that an average of 21.3 individuals (median=11.5) accessed their property from January through December 2019 for the purposes of river-related recreation. Extrapolating to the 223 landowners in the entire sample, it was estimated that about **4,750 individuals** used private land to access the Tallapoosa River within the study area from January through December 2019 for the purposes of river-related recreation.

3.3 Landowners and Water Levels and Water Level Acceptability for Recreation

When asked if they check the Tallapoosa River USGS gages or Alabama Power generation schedule before participating in their favorite river-related recreation activity from their property, only 45 percent of landowners indicated they did so.

When landowners were asked, in general, if there was a time of day where they found the water level of the Tallapoosa River most acceptable for participating in their favorite activity from their property, only 39.8 percent answered in the affirmative. When those who indicated they had a preferred time were asked to specify a particular time, only 29 landowners specified one. Table 1 shows the preferred time by county of residence for

those who indicated they had one. Although very few landowners completed this question, the majority of landowners in Randolph County specified a preferred time as 10:00 am or earlier, while the majority of landowners in Chambers County specified 11:00 am or earlier, and the majority of Tallapoosa County landowners indicated their preferred time was 12:00 pm or later showing some relationship between preferred time and distance from Harris Dam.

Table 1. Percent of Tallapoosa River landowners' preferred time for their favorite recreational activity from their property in terms of water level (n=29).

TIME	COUNTY		
	Randolph (n=15)	Chambers (n=9)	Tallapoosa (n=5)
6:00 am	6.67	33.33	0.00
7:00 am	6.67	0.00	0.00
8:00 am	13.33	0.00	20.00
9:00 am	20.00	11.11	0.00
10:00 am	20.00	0.00	20.00
11:00 am	0.00	11.11	0.00
12:00 pm	0.00	11.11	20.00
1:00 pm	13.33	11.11	20.00
2:00 pm	6.67	11.11	20.00
3:00 pm	0.00	11.11	0.00
4:00 pm	6.67	0.00	0.00
5:00 pm	6.67	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	100.00

When landowners were asked, in general, whether there was a month of the year where they found the water level of the Tallapoosa River most acceptable for participating in their favorite activity from their property, about 55.7 percent indicated they had a favorite month (Table 2). Overall, July was the most preferred month for landowners (32.6 percent) followed by June (23.9 percent), and May (21.7 percent).

There were 58 landowners who returned their postcard with acceptability ratings for their favorite activity at a specific time and date they were able to visit the Tallapoosa River on their property. The average landowner ratings on the 10-point acceptability scale was only 3.16. Figure 8 graphically presents the average acceptability ratings landowners made by water level (cfs). The red line represents a marginal line on the scale where "1" was "Very Unacceptable" and a "10" was "Very Acceptable". Only one flow range (<5000 cfs) achieved a marginal rating and no flow ranges observed (mainly in February and March) were acceptable to downstream Tallapoosa River landowners. To determine how water level (i.e., instream flow) affected acceptability, I conducted a linear regression of acceptability score by the flow calculated by the HEC-RAS model at the date and time the postcard was completed by the landowner. Results of the linear regression were not significant ($F=2.72$; $p=0.1049$). Additionally, regression analysis by

those whose favorite activity included “fishing” (F=0.00; p=0.9961) or “not fishing” (F=0.76; p=0.3946) also were not significant.

Table 2. Percent of Tallapoosa River landowners’ preferred month for their favorite recreational activity from their property in terms of water level (n=46).

MONTH	COUNTY			
	Randolph (n=19)	Chambers (n=15)	Tallapoosa (n=12)	Overall
APRIL	0.00	6.67	16.67	6.52
MAY	31.58	13.33	16.67	21.74
JUNE	26.32	33.33	8.33	23.91
JULY	42.11	26.67	25.00	32.61
AUGUST	0.00	6.67	16.67	6.52
SEPTEMBER	0.00	13.33	8.33	6.52
OCTOBER	0.00	0.00	8.33	2.17
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

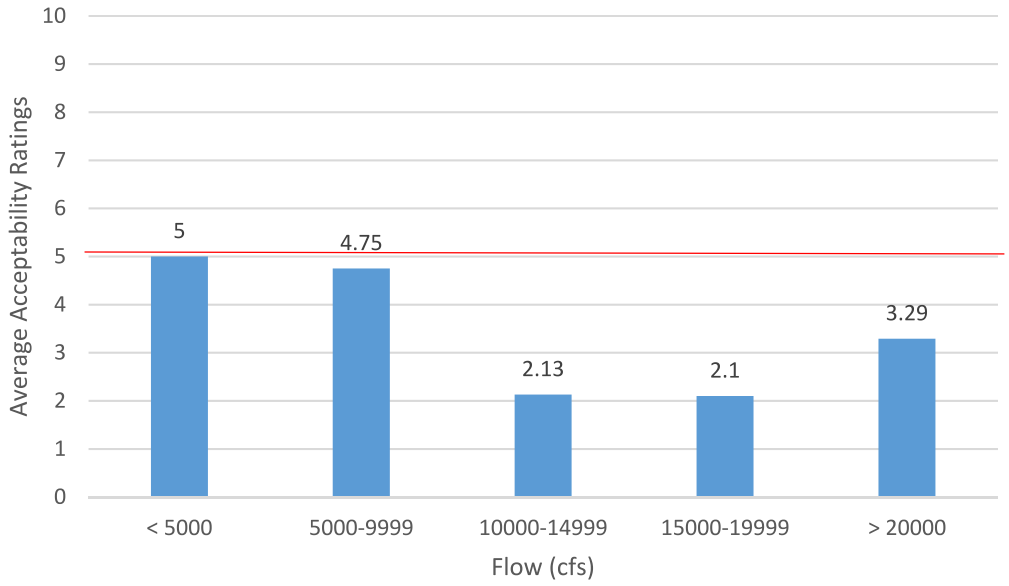

Figure 8. Tallapoosa landowner acceptability of water level at date and time specified on returned postcard (n=58).

3.4 Landowner Attitudes about Tallapoosa River Conditions and Recreation

Landowners were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with nine statements about their experiences with conditions on the Tallapoosa River (Table 3). A majority of landowners agreed or strongly agreed with eight of the nine statements: “I am concerned with bank erosion on my property” (70.4 percent), “Most of the encounters I

have with Tallapoosa River recreationists who pass by my property are pleasant ones" (66.3 percent), "Most Tallapoosa River recreationists are respectful of my property and property rights" (65.0 percent), "I believe the water quality on the Tallapoosa River near my property is good" (60.2 percent), "I believe the variety and abundance of wildlife populations on the banks of the Tallapoosa River near my property is good" (55.7 percent), "I believe the variety and abundance of aquatic organisms in Tallapoosa River near my property is good" (53.6 percent), "The overall health of the Tallapoosa River on my property is good" (54.7 percent), and "I am concerned with people I do not know accessing my property from the Tallapoosa River" (51.5 percent). A plurality (33.7 percent) of landowners disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement "I believe there is sufficient public access on the Tallapoosa River downstream of the Harris Dam for recreational purposes".

Table 3. Percent of landowners by the extent they agree or disagree with various statements about their experiences with conditions on the Tallapoosa River; ranked by mean score on five-point scale with 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree.

STATEMENT	n	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Neutral (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)	Mean Score
I am concerned with bank erosion on my property along the Tallapoosa River	98	7.14	3.06	19.39	24.49	45.92	3.98
Most of the encounters I have with Tallapoosa River recreationists who pass by my property are pleasant ones	98	5.1	2.04	26.53	57.14	9.18	3.63
Most Tallapoosa River recreationists are respectful of my property and property rights	97	5.15	8.25	21.65	57.73	7.22	3.54
I believe the water quality on the Tallapoosa River near my property is good	98	11.22	8.16	20.41	39.80	20.41	3.50
I am concerned with people I do not know accessing my property from the Tallapoosa River	99	5.05	11.11	32.32	32.32	19.19	3.49
I believe the variety and abundance of wildlife populations on the banks of the Tallapoosa River near my property is good	97	10.31	12.37	21.65	46.39	9.28	3.32
I believe the variety and abundance of aquatic organisms in Tallapoosa River near my property is good	97	12.37	15.46	18.56	39.18	14.43	3.27
The overall health of the Tallapoosa River on my property is good	95	15.79	11.58	17.89	44.21	10.53	3.22
I believe there is sufficient public access on the Tallapoosa River downstream of the Harris Dam for recreational purposes	99	16.33	17.35	32.65	21.43	12.24	2.96

Finally, landowners were asked to rate the conditions of the Tallapoosa River around their property since Alabama Power changed the Harris Project operations in 2005. A plurality (35 percent) of landowners rated river conditions about the same since the change in operations, with 25 percent indicating they believe river conditions are worse and 19 percent indicating it is better than before 2005. About 21 percent of landowners indicated they didn't own their property prior to 2005 and were not able to rate a change in conditions (Figure 9).

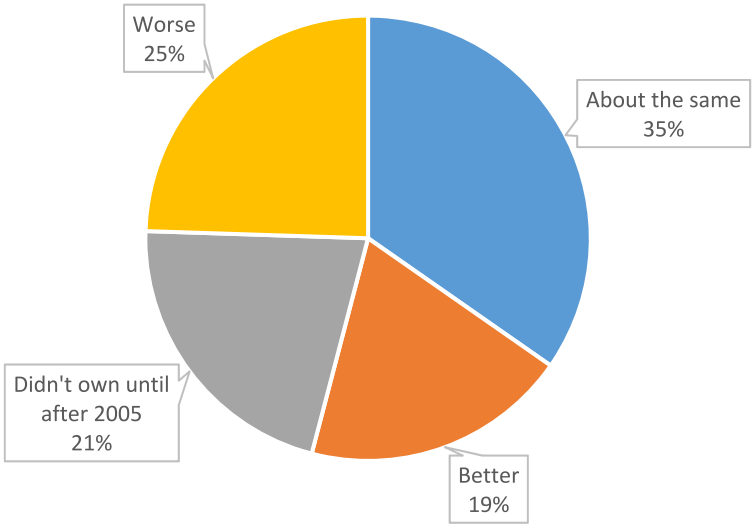

Figure 9. Percent of Tallapoosa River landowners by how they rate river conditions since 2005 (n=98).

4.0 Conclusions

- Response rates to mailed surveys have been declining nationwide over the past few decades and response rates in the 30-40 percent range are being considered "good" in today's research environment (Stedman et al. 2019). That over 50 percent of landowners who received a survey responded indicates this was a highly relevant study for many downstream Tallapoosa River landowners.

- River-related recreation is an important component in the lives of Tallapoosa River landowners living downstream of Harris Dam. Over 90 percent of landowners participate in river-related recreation activities from their properties, and 66 percent consider it a primary use, 24 percent higher than any other use category. Many landowners indicated that they and their families have been recreating on the Tallapoosa River for generations, and 30 percent have owned their property for over 30 years.

- Downstream landowners participate in a variety of river-related recreation with fishing, swimming, and wildlife watching being the activities they participate in the most, but recreational fishing in its many forms (boat fishing, bank/wade fishing, and canoe and kayak fishing) was the favorite activity for nearly 60 percent of landowners.

- In terms of water levels, over 78 percent of downstream landowners who had a preference indicated that they liked the water levels observed in the months of May, June, and July for river-related recreation on their properties, with July water levels being the most preferred. I used two approaches to help narrow that down to time of day or exact flow they preferred but neither provided information that would lead to a firm conclusion on an optimal flow range for downstream landowners. First, it was hoped that landowners were familiar enough with daily water level fluctuations to have a time preference for their favorite activity. However, too few landowners had a time preference to determine whether preferred water level could be predicted by the Harris Dam generation schedule. While there was some indication that those with properties closer to the dam preferred early-mid morning water levels compared to those with properties more downstream, low sample size prevents me from making a firm conclusion in that regard. Second, in the week between the introductory letter and first questionnaires arriving in landowner mailboxes, there were extremely heavy rains in the Tallapoosa River watershed. In fact, one day after most landowners received their surveys and flow postcard on February 12, 2020, flood gates were opened at Harris Dam. This was the first spill event since April 2019. It was hoped that downstream landowners would wait for more normal river levels to complete their postcard, but many completed it "at their earliest convenience" as instructed. As a result, only six landowners observed water levels consistent with flows observed by Tallapoosa River recreationists in the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey conducted in 2019, and most flows observed ranged from 6,000 to over 30,000 cfs. Only those experiencing flows less than 5,000 cfs had an average acceptability rating nearing the marginal flow line. All flows above that were rated as highly unacceptable to landowners for their favorite recreation activity. So, where I was unable to determine an optimal flow range, I am able to conclude that any flow greater than 5,000 cfs is unacceptable to downstream landowners for purposes of river-related recreation.

- High water levels landowners observed during this study likely brought "top of mind" their concerns over erosion on their properties. Over 70 percent of landowners agreed (24.5 percent) or strongly agreed (45.9 percent) that erosion on their property concerned them.

5.0 Literature Cited

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Hunter, J. E. and F. L Schmidt. 1990. Methods of Meta-Analysis: Correcting Error and Bias in Research Findings. Sage Publication, Newbury Park, CA. 592p.

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Stedman, R. C., N. A. Connelly, T. A. Heberleing, D .J. Decker, and S. B. Allred. 2019. The End of the (Research) World As We Know It? Understanding and Coping with Declining Response Rates to Mail Surveys. Society & Natural Resources 32 (10): 1139-1154.

Whittaker, D. and B. Shelby. 2002. Evaluating Instream Flows for Recreation: Applying the Structural Norm Approach to Biophysical Conditions. Human Dimensions of Wildlife 24:363-374.

APPENDIX A

SELF-ADMINSTERED QUESTIONNAIRE

Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey



You were selected for this study because you were identified as a residential landowner, agricultural landowner, or the owner of vacant land adjacent to the Tallapoosa River between R.L. Harris Dam and Jaybird Landing that could possibly be used for river-related recreation. **Where you may own multiple land parcels on the Tallapoosa River, please complete this questionnaire based on the land parcel on which you reside or use as a vacation destination. If you do not reside or vacation for some part of the year at your property(ies) on the river, please complete this survey based on your most upstream property**. The information you provide will remain strictly confidential, and you will not be identified with your answers. Answers will be grouped with other respondents in a non-identifiable manner for reporting purposes.

1. How many years have you owned this property on the Tallapoosa River? _____ YEARS

2. What are the primary uses of your land on this property? ***(Please check all that apply)***

   _____ PERMANENT HOME RESIDENCE
   _____ SEASONAL/VACATION RESIDENCE
   _____ RECREATIONAL USE
   _____ TIMBER PRODUCTION
   _____ AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
   _____ VACANT PROPERTY WITH NO DESIGNATED USE
   _____ OTHER (***Please specify***: _____)

3. Which of the following types of river-related recreation do you personally engage in on the Tallapoosa River from your property? ***(Please check all that apply)***

   _____ A. SHORE OR WADE FISHING
   _____ B. SWIMMING
   _____ C. TUBING/RAFTING
   _____ D. BOATING (NON-FISHING)
   _____ E. FISHING FROM A BOAT
   _____ F. CANOEING (NON-FISHING)
   _____ G. FISHING FROM A CANOE
   _____ H. KAYAKING (NON-FISHING)
   _____ I. FISHING FROM A KAYAK
   _____ J. SCENIC/WILDLIFE VIEWING
   _____ K. I DON'T PARTICIPATE IN ANY (***Please go to Question #10***)

4. Of the ten (10) river-related recreation activities listed in Question #3, what is your personal **favorite** to do from your property? ***(Please circle only one)***

   A B C D E F G H I J

5. From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 , how many days did you personally participate in all of the river-related recreation activities listed in Question #3 **combined** from your property?

   _____ DAYS

6. From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, how many days did you personally participate in your **favorite** river-related recreation activity you selected in Question #4 from your property?

   _____ DAYS

7. Do you check the Tallapoosa River USGS water level gages or Alabama Power generation schedule before planning your **favorite** river-related recreation activity on your property?

   1 YES
   2 NO

8. In general, is there a time of day where you find the water level of the Tallapoosa River most acceptable to you for participating in your favorite river-related recreation activity from your property?

   1 YES – (***Please specify TIME:*** _____ ***AM or PM***)
   2 NO

9. In general, is there a month of the year where you find the water level of the Tallapoosa River most acceptable to you for participating in your favorite river-related recreation activity from your property?

   1 YES – (***Please specify MONTH:*** _____***)***
   2 NO

10. Do you allow people other than individuals who live with you to participate in river-related recreation from your property?

    1 YES
    2 NO --- (***Please go to Question #13***)

11. What is the relationship to you of the individuals who you allow to participate in river-related recreation from your property? ***(Please check all that apply)***

    _____ EXTENDED FAMILY OR RELATIVES
    _____ FRIENDS
    _____ RENTERS
    _____ BUSINESS ASSOCIATES/EMPLOYEES
    _____ HUNTING OR FISHING LEASE HOLDERS
    _____ OTHER (***Please specify***: _____)

12. Including yourself, how many people that you know of accessed the Tallapoosa River from your property for river-related recreation from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019?

_____ NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS

13. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your experiences with the Tallapoosa River:

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a)	I am concerned with bank erosion on my property along the Tallapoosa River	1	2	3	4	5
b)	I believe the water quality on the Tallapoosa River near my property is good	1	2	3	4	5
c)	I believe the variety and abundance of aquatic organisms (fish, reptiles, and amphibians) in the Tallapoosa River near my property is good	1	2	3	4	5
d)	I believe the variety and abundance of wildlife populations on the banks of the Tallapoosa River near my property is good	1	2	3	4	5
e)	The overall health of the Tallapoosa River on my property is good	1	2	3	4	5
f)	I believe there is sufficient public access on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam for recreational purposes	1	2	3	4	5
g)	Most of the encounters I have with Tallapoosa River recreationists who pass by my property are pleasant ones	1	2	3	4	5
h)	Most Tallapoosa River recreationists are respectful of my property and property rights	1	2	3	4	5
i)	I am concerned with people I do not know accessing my property from the Tallapoosa River	1	2	3	4	5

14. Alabama Power changed the Harris Project operations in 2005. Based on your experiences, how would you rate the conditions of the Tallapoosa River around your property since that time?

1 WORSE

2 BETTER

3 ABOUT THE SAME

4 I DON'T KNOW, I DIDN'T OWN THE PROPERTY BEFORE 2005

15. You were provided with a post card in the mailing that informed you about this study asking you to visit the Tallapoosa River on your property and complete the questions on the post card. Will you be able to complete and send back that post card prior to April 15, 2020?

    1 YES
    2 NO

16. Is there anything you would like to share with Alabama Power specifically regarding recreation on the Tallapoosa River? Please use the space provided below for your comments.

17. Is there anything in general you would like to share with Alabama Power regarding the R.L. Harris Dam Relicensing Process or Tallapoosa River? Please use the space provided below for your comments.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION. PLEASE RETURN YOUR SURVEY IN THE PRE-STAMPED ENVELOPE PROVIDED WITH THIS SURVEY MAILING.

APPENDIX B

FLOW POSTCARD INCLUDED IN SURVEY MAILINGS

ID:

At your next possible convenience, please go to the river on your property with this postcard and a pen.

Once at the river, please complete the following:

Date: _____

Time: _____ AM or PM

What is your favorite river-related recreation activity at this spot on the river?

_____

On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being "**VERY UNACCEPTABLE**" and 10 being "**VERY ACCEPTABLE**", how would you rate the water level right now for your favorite activity indicated above?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Thank you. Please put this pre-stamped card in the mail as soon as possible.

APPENDIX C

SURVEY CORRESPONDENCE WITH LANDOWNERS

«ID»

February 3, 2020

«FIRST» «MIDDLE» «LAST»
«ADDRESS»
«CITY», «MSTATE» «MZIP»

Dear «SALUTE»:

We are writing to ask for your help in a study of landowners in Randolph, Chambers, and Tallapoosa Counties who own property along the Tallapoosa River. As part of the relicensing process of the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (Harris Project) (FERC Project No. 2628), Alabama Power worked with Dr. Kevin Hunt to conduct a study of recreationists who used public access points on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing from March through October 2019. In addition to those recreationists, Alabama Power is seeking input from landowners along the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing.

We developed a survey for you to provide some information about your recreational use of the Tallapoosa River from your property, use by others you may allow to access the Tallapoosa River through your property, and your opinions about water levels you encounter while using the Tallapoosa River. Additionally, we have provided room in the survey to provide us with any comments you may have about resource issues on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam or the Harris Project relicensing process.

In the next two weeks, you will receive detailed instructions for completing the survey from Dr. Kevin Hunt. The survey will be provided to you in paper form or you will have the opportunity to complete it online.

Your responses are important to us whether you use the Tallapoosa River from your property often for recreation or just occasionally. All responses will be strictly confidential. Your answers will be grouped with other respondents in a non-identifiable manner. Although the survey is voluntary, we hope that you will take the 15-20 minutes necessary to provide your input and be a part of the Harris Project relicensing process.

If you should have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact me at (205) 257-2251. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Angie Anderegg
Harris Relicensing Project Manager

«ID»

February 10, 2020

«FIRST» «MIDDLE» «LAST»
«ADDRESS»
«CITY», «MSTATE» «MZIP»

Dear «SALUTE»:

I am writing to ask for your help in a study of landowners on the Tallapoosa River as part of Alabama Power's Harris Dam relicensing process You were selected for this study because county tax records indicate that you own residential, vacation, agricultural, or vacant land adjacent to the Tallapoosa River in Randolph, Chambers, or Tallapoosa Counties that could be used for river-related recreation.

This study is designed to provide an objective assessment of Tallapoosa River recreational use by landowners on the Tallapoosa River for the Harris Project relicensing. Your confidential responses to the survey will help the Alabama Power make more informed decisions about recreational resources below Harris Dam. I worked with Alabama Power to develop the enclosed survey to ask you questions about your use of the Tallapoosa River from your property for river-related recreation, use by others (family or friends) who may access the Tallapoosa River through your property for recreational purposes, and your attitudes about various aspects of the Tallapoosa River and water levels. The survey also allows you the opportunity to provide any comments you have about recreation and the relicensing process. You can complete the survey and send it back to me in the enclosed pre-stamped envelope, **or** you can complete the survey online at the following website :

https://surveymonkey.com/r/tallapoosaland

In addition to the enclosed survey, I have included a pre-stamped postcard that I hope you can complete. If you are able, I ask that go to the Tallapoosa River on your property at any time in the next 30 days, complete the brief information on the card, and mail it back to me. This information will be combined with water level data provided by Alabama Power.

Your responses to the survey and postcard are important whether you use the Tallapoosa River often for recreation or just occasionally. All responses will be strictly confidential, and your answers will be grouped with other respondents in a non-identifiable manner. Your identifiable information will not be divulged to anyone in Alabama Power and I will destroy the name and address list at the conclusion of the study on April 30, 2020.

I hope that you will take the 15-20 minutes necessary to provide your input and be a part of the relicensing process. If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact me at (205) 518-2890. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If those who use your property for recreation would like to contribute to the relicensing process, you can direct them to the following website to provide their input:

https://surveymonkey.com/r/tallapoosauser

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin M. Hunt
Private Consultant

SURVEY ID

March 2, 2020

LANDOWNER NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIPCODE

Dear FIRST NAME:

About three weeks ago, I sent you an invitation to participate in a study of landowners on Tallapoosa River as part of Alabama Power's Harris Dam Relicensing Process As of today, I have yet to receive your response. If you have already returned your survey by mail or completed it online, please accept my thanks.

You are one of a small number of landowners selected to participate in this study, and your responses may differ from those who have already responded. I hope that you will be able to take some time to provide your input to this study and help Alabama Power make more informed decisions about recreational resources as it relates to the relicensing process.

The survey is designed to ask you questions about your use of the Tallapoosa River from your property for river-related recreation, use by others (family or friends) who may access the Tallapoosa River through your property for recreational purposes, and your attitudes about various aspects of the Tallapoosa River and water levels. The survey also allows you the opportunity to provide any comments you have about recreation and the relicensing process. I have enclosed another survey in case you have misplaced the one I previously sent. You can complete the survey and send it back to me in the enclosed pre-stamped envelope, **or** you can complete the survey online at the following website:

https://surveymonkey.com/r/tallapoosaland

I have also enclosed an additional pre-stamped postcard that I hope you can complete if you have not returned one already. If you are able, I ask that go to the river on your property at any time in the next 15 days, complete the brief information on the card and mail it back to me. This information will be combined with water level data provided by Alabama Power.

Your responses to both the survey and postcard are important whether you use the Tallapoosa River from your property often for recreation or just occasionally. All responses will be strictly confidential, and your answers will be grouped with other respondents in a non-identifiable manner. Your identifiable information will not be divulged to anyone in Alabama Power and I will destroy the name and address list at the conclusion of the study on April 30, 2020.

I hope that you will take the 15-20 minutes necessary to provide your input and be a part of the relicensing process. If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact me at (205) 518-2890. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If those who use your property for recreation would like to contribute to the relicensing process, you can direct them to the following website to provide their input:

https://surveymonkey.com/r/tallapoosauser

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin M. Hunt
Private Consultant

APPENDIX D

OPEN ENDED COMMENTS TO "IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH ALABAMA POWER SPECIFICALLY REGARDING RECREATION ON THE TALLAPOOSA RIVER?"

5020

I would like to use it more but I appreciate this study being created. The water ways and usage is extremely important to future generations. THANKS. This was my husbands place of birth and is very important to him.

5026

Water level changes are not good for fishing and aquatic life. Fishing has not been near as good since Harris dam was built.

5027

- There is no public access up river to our property within 10 miles. -the recreational users should not be able to have fires on other people's property.

5036

When the pulses were agreed on in 2005, all of the stakeholders agreed to let Dr. Erwin perform studies. Alabama Power has not allowed a public forum for Elise Erwin to reveal her findings. Question #25 is hard to answer because the pulses, rather than constant generation had positive effects on erosion but had a negative effect on the fishery. The water is too cold due to the three pulses. The pulses do allow floatation on the river if you put in as the pulse passes your spot where you begin your float. If you loose or miss the pulse, you will be dragging your boat rather than floating.

5045

We would enjoy the river more often if the water levels weren't so extreme. A lot of the time, there is either Too little or Too much water. In the midsummer months, It is more like a creek during the day. Water comes up at night.

5046

I think the fish need a more constant flow during the spring spawn. It's very hard to have a good spawning season when water level changes so much. I also understand that the spring rains have a lot to do with this as well, not sure what the answer is. But I think the fish population is suffering from it.

5056

I am very concerned about bank erosion along the Tallapoosa River. I would like for Alabama Power to work towards slowing the release of water unless absolutely necessary.

5058

I wish yall could generate more at night. it seems that the river rises and falls a lot! while we are getting ready to go to the river, nope! They're generating.

5066

Bank erosion is really bad due to sudden drastic water levels and flow rate!

5068

the water level fluctuates so much that sometimes there is four to eight ft of water fluctuation which interferes with anything you do on the river.

5086

My family certainly enjoys having property on the Tallapoosa River. our primary activity is the scenic and wildlife viewing.

5087

More launch ramps to access the river are needed. There is limited boat access.

5093

The river has all kinds of trash in the water from the flood time several yrs ago. Broken glass, cans, tin, parts from buildings that was destroyed from the flood, nails in boards, car tires, trees that got washed away from banks you never know what to expect when you go to the river.

5094

No except people just need to keep their trash with them instead of throwing it in the river.

5095

I think it's great like it is

5097

Water levels are not conducive to canoeing when it is warm enough to go. Water is not flowing enough

5099

My family has a reunion with about 190 attending. There is a lot of them in the river for about 2+ weeks. I worry about the constant rising of the water. DANGEROUS

5100

1. In the winter, the water is too high, in the summer, near zero water. 2. My property has lost 15' of bank since the dam opened. 3. The dam has killed off all of the native catfish and bullfrogs.

5102

Ever since the dam was built the water is either too low to pole a batear (sic) or paddle a canoe or the water is too swift. Even when small amounts of water are released it comes from the very bottom of the reservoir and is thus being pushed by the massive weight of the lake. There are no more fish of significant size. The yellow catfish have all died. There are only carp and small bass and a few brem in some of the deeper holes. The Tallapoosa below Harris dam is essentially a dead river. In summer the river water is too hot to swim in or too swift.

5113

It would help if people would keep the river clean. Public Access to enter and exit the river other than private property.

5117

We lose bank every year - Guess Al. P. is trying to fill Lake Martin

5133

We fish a lot and Auburn University does testing in our area a lot as well and when they do it takes a while for the fish to go back to biting. Happens about every 2 years I guess.

5137

We need water on a more consistent basis. May is a good month b/c there is usually plenty of water + the temps are up. The problem I have is the generation schedule is not very reliable. We call but you really can't count on it.

5139

The water level this year has allowed for more months of recreational use due to the rainfall we have had in this area.

5141

Water levels wash away fish eggs please restock fish. We can't eat the fish but could have fun fishing Wadley Sewage (raw) flows into the river

5145

Would like to see stronger water flow at my property

5146

Water level not predictable even when call - Water erosion is causing bank to cave w/ loss of trees

5147

I would REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, love to see the water level raised. I am confined to the shoals above and below me. I would love to be able to put my Jonboat in with my small 6hp motor and be able to fish and enjoy the whole river!!

5148

Fishing is awful at my property above the bridge @ Wadley. The Dam has had a negative effect on the fish.

5164

WE CAN NOT SWIM DUE TO THE GENERATION

5176

Fishing has been greatly affected (no frogs)

5184

I am pleased with recreational activities on the river during the SUMMER. During the winter if it rains for a whole day or more, they release all water that has accumulated in the lake from the rain. Any decent rainfall seen in Randolph County my yard will be flooded because of trying to keep lake levels low for winter. Please generate normally as yall would during the summer time rainfall. Don't release so much at once. It won't hurt for the lake to rise a few feet to prevent destroying our property every winter! Thank you!

5188

Please leave this beautiful river like it is. The fishing is great and we don't have to deal with boats and waverunners.

5205

None / Ok like it is! It would be nice to be able to get information off of FB through the internet. * We lost our cabin in the 2003 flood, since that time the river has been better. 2020 we have had 124 inches of rain and it hasn't flooded at all. Thank you AL Power.

5208

sometimes the current in the river is too swift and dangerous.

5210

There should be safe access for people to ge in and out of the river.

5220

I think more public access points to the river would be nice. Most people do not have a place to put boats in or out except Germany's Ferry or Horseshoe Bend which is not great if you want a short trip.

5224

Bridge having water levels inicated might help floaters

5228

River levels vary much, but I realize that rainfall and power demands cause this to happen

5230

Need a better way to find out when dam is generating. Phone # is not accurate!!

5233

The water level could be 2 - 3 ft deeper

5238

Water level / flow needs to be monitored at Harris Dam, not the Wadley Bridge. Water levels fall to unacceptable levels between, generation / pulsing, for recreation and wildlife.

5239

Kayaking and wading the river (fishing) would be easier to schedule if the water levels were predictable. Generating could be done mostly at night and very early morning, leaving the river level at the most consistent flow.

5240

There has been an increase in people floating on the river.

5244

Timber producing land but I do enjoy being outside/observing nature

7030

Need more public access hunting land where Lake Wedowee covered up! APC needs to quit leasing their land out and open it up for public access! Also, have some type attraction for families and kids to go outdoors as in play ground with things for youth to do but policed.

7034

no

7051

The flow of the river needs to be more consistent. The river is either raging or hardly flowing.

7067

Security and flood control (or lack thereof) are our most important concerns as property owners

7084

Our family and friends love getting in the river at one end of our property and floating the long way down river to the other end of the property (or somewhere in between). The pleasantness, pace of the slow float, and scenic views of nature are all wonderful as well as seeing some wildlife. We hope it can continue. The level of the river seems to fluctuate more often than in the distant past and I don't know what effect that has had on fishing.

7086

The flow of the river has destroyed the fish population from what it was before the dam.

7095

No

7100

A better water flow during summer months. More consistant flow. Water is released 6-7 AM, 12-1 noon, 6-7 PM

7101

Retain water level as it was when I was growing up.

7105

Night time increase of flow is eroding the banks and taking land away from my property.

8002

Recreation on the river is severely hampered by unannounced river releases, dwindling wildlife populations, no mussels, 90% less yellow cat, blue cat, decreases in other populations. Releases at peak river times for fishing, canoeing, boating and swimming. Increased land erosion from "flushing of the river". Decreased fish populations for spring which hurts spawning. River releases should be slow, steady, as not to destroy eggs by cold water releases, and currents that could wash eggs downstream and water releases in such a manner as to decrease fish population along with other species.

8003

It is very hard to plan activities with the level of info given on releases. The water level is not consistent enough and very unpredictable. The dam has caused major issues with erosion, aquatic and wildlife and mostly safety

8003

There definitely needs to be a change in the flow rate and levels of release. The river has become a more dangerous place since the addition of the dam but could be managed better with adequate flow rates. Pool levels need to be re-evaluated and better managed to prevent home loss, land erosion, aquatic, wildlife and vegetation extinction below the dam.

8004

Main concern is bank erosion and the way water is released (like FLUSHING the river ... ridiculous). Too dangerous to get in water!

8005

I would ask that better anticipation of rainfall overflow be let down early and more gradually instead of waiting until it becomes a situation where the river must be placed at flood stage.

APPENDIX E

OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS TO "IS THERE ANYTHING IN GENERAL YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH ALABAMA POWER REGARDING THE R.L. HARRIS DAM RELICENSING PROCESS OR TALLAPOOSA RIVER?"

5026

I would like to see more studies and concerns about the effect of fish wildlife in the river.

5027

Keep it clean Please

5036

The dam needs to be modified to provide adequate constant river flow at normal temperatures for the appropriate season. All of the shareholders agreed with APC to allow studies and in the time of the studies there would be no lawsuits by shareholders filed. We all agreed to this. APC is being dishonest with the community by not providing a forum to discuss the results of Dr. Erwins study. This dam should NOT be relicensed as is. The destruction of our property is incredible. We have lost roughly 15 feet of bank/trees over nearly a mile of property. The amount of wildlife that has been lost is incredible. The ecosystem is fragile/weak - study the bug life alone and this will tell the tail of the destruction of the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam.

5038

Bank Erosion, my land is washing away. I bet I have lost 2 acres of land.

5045

It seems like during The driest months, the people who have places on the lake are enjoying A FULL lake, While I AM DRAGGING A CANOE DOWN THE RIVER

5046

I think that the well being of this river should be the most important thing noT the profit $

5054

Washing banks away

5055

Keep lake level low to avoid flooding

5056

I would like to see more public river accesses along the Tallapoosa River from Harris Dam to Jay Birds Landing.

5057

- I live on an almost 90 degree bend in the river. the rapid rise/fall in water levels seems to create lateral sloshing as well as numerous eddies that cause erosion. Requests on guidance of what to plant along the shore line have not been answered by gov. agencies. - I wonder if water quality testing is done on a regular basis, like city water test results published in local papers - I am concerned with the electronic and physical security of dam operations. since the dam is operated remotely from B'ham, what security

measures are in use, and have they been independently audited...hacking at Rye Ny and the Hoover Dam come to mind.

5058

Please keep doing your good job. I don't know the first thing about generation but I do know a beautiful river when I see one. We used to have sand and gravel bar in front of our home now it covered in grass of different varies. I am not blaming anyone! but thats what happened in the last 7 or 8 years.

5086

Water levels and flood control have certainly improved since the building of the R. L. Harris Dam. I remember the historical scene of the highway bridge being flooded in 2003. Thank you Alabama Power.

5092

Not Familiar

5093

There is no comparison to the river now and what it used to be before the dam was built. The way the operation of the water level in the past years is just destroying the land that I did have at one time. Soil & trees & fences have went down stream filling up lake Martin. I reckon with all the other trash

* Letter that was included with the survey: To Whom It may concern, My family has owned river property for at least 55 yr. It has never been the same river since the dam has been up stream from our property. you never know what to expect when you go to your river property. It used to be a river that you could fish from the bank or a boat, but now the banks are straight up and down or 10 ' to the water from erosion from the water coming up and down and covering my bottoms from letting the water from the dam. The further you go down the river from the dam the more water comes in to the river from creek and branches. I have cattle on my property. They try to get water from the river when their branch drys up, but there is them 8 to 10' banks that they cannot get down to the water. I had a land survey did on my property back in 2018. I came up short 14'-16' of land at the river being erosion from the river banks. Trees on the bank keep falling in the river due to the dirt washing from the roots of the trees. Due to water rising 8 to 10' the river is getting wider and shallow when it is at a normal stage. Fences I paid 3.00 Aft. to get build on 2-12-2020, 2-13-2020, the river water had them covered and they will probably be on the ground when the water goes down to normal stage from the river. Couldn't even get in the pasture to feed cows 3 days in my truck due to river had water pushed up the branches and hollows. I allow visitors any time to see my problems from the river below the dam on my property. Signed with address and phone number

5095

No - No comment - Everything is OK like it is

5097

More consideration should be given to the river and its natural flow and habitat, especially downstream.

5099

Control the flooding better. It has flooded about 5 times in Feb. 2020. On Feb. 6 it flooded and the days before it was down to 3.5 feet at Wadley and up to 8. Should have prepared and not flooded us. That happens a lot. The Big Selling Point back in the late 70's was to control flooding. Look at the charts for Wadley and the lake for Feb. and compere against each other.

5100

I own property on the river, off the river, and at Lake Harris. I grew up on that river and the dam killed the fishing down from the dam. I would keep the lake @ 4 pt below full pool in the winter and use a constant flow turbine.

5101

I wish the river never overflowed its banks after extreme rainy conditions

5102

The dam destroyed - not only the river - but the wonderful rich river culture that existed here of fish camping and hunting ect. No more baskets can be fished here. No more trotlines. No more set hooks or bank hooks. The only people who use the river these days seem to be of a basser sort. They drag their kayaks over the rocks, cursing loudly, playing music and disrupting nature, most seem intoxicated and they leave trash behind them. I realize the above mentioned river culture is gone, never to return and I know that this river can never be returned to its original beauty, however things can certainly be made better than they currently are. What we have now is just atrocious.

5113

your letter did not explain what the Relicensing is actually going to do. Therefore I cannot give a response to this question as your letter is very vague

5117

Min. Flow cannot be reduced. Don't flood the river people next time.

5133

Do not need to keep any less water from flowing down the river. There are times when we can hardly get up the river now.

5137

This letter was addressed to my mother, but it had my address. I have been the owner of this property since 2013. My mother owned it prior to that. This property has been in the family since the early 90's.

5141

Instal constant flow water system and help save our rivers thank you for the electric. I love Eve and the river

5146

Come help shore up the banks that are caving! (Large boulders brought in and placed on eroded and eroding banks)

5147

I love living & raising my kids on this river. Thank you for looking after it.

5148

I own property on the Lake Wedowee on the north end of the lake. Alabama Power needs to let property owners dredge out silt with a permit. It's awful in places. I own several thousand feet of shoreline. The flooding the past 20 years has made my property almost worthless. I Need Help!

5164

My children cannot safely swim or play anywhere close to the river. Our banks have eroded away. Very Sad!!!

5165

It is good for all

5176

Sorry it was built

5188

Whatever the relicensing is about, do not let it affect the river.

5201

Water control. Keep the river in the banks

5205

Need a Facebook page to get the water release schedules. We have no phones service at our property. We can get Internet, FB would be great way to keep up with water release's. We Love the river!

5208

would be nice for the release of the water from the dam to be better controlled.

5215

Be as concerned about us downstream as on lake. FLOOD CONTROL AND EVEN/STABLE FLOW DOWNSTREAM. AL POWER DOES NOT OWN THE RIVER!

5218

A constant river flow will help with erosion

5224

Erosion is biggest problem. Wildlife has declined since I first bought the property / tree cutting / dogs running may be part of problem. I use to see eagles all the time not so much now.

5233

Generally Ala Power does a good job

5234

Could I get information on how and where I can check the levels and stuff of the river

5236

Bank Erosion is greatest concern.

5238

When two turbines are running part of my bottoms are underwater. Two turbines puts parts of my property in flood stage. This also causes more bank erosion. The turbines installed are too large when running together (to much flow) and have already caused great damage to the banks and wildlife below Harris Dam.

5240

Our banks are eroding fast due to heavy flow - this sometimes when lake levels are extremely low. Fish and turtles, crawfish, snails are all depleting due to rapid flow.

7013

Alabama Power has destroyed the Tallapoosa River, Down stream from Harris Dam

7030

APC should be held to having to put in things for public per condemnation proceedings in federal court that they have not done.

7034

no

7051

Your scheduled water release is hardly ever what you say it will be.

7067

If more public access is provided there should also be clear points to enter and exit with some amenities so that recreationists don't stop on private property.

7084

Since the huge flood of 2003 (or 2005), Alabama Power has done a very good job of controlling water flow so that my bottomland doesn't flood.

7086

Please allow dredging in lake. The north end of the lake is terrible. Please start allowing people to remove the silt from the lake during the winter. The upper end is filling up. No. 1 Problem at the lake. Call me any time ##

7091

My Land is Washing Away!

7095

No

7100

We have been flooded out twice during past years (10). Need a better control of lake level and river levels.

7101

Can never be like it was

7116

I got time I'm fishing April to November, bass fishing is good. It's maybe a 7 on 1 to 10, but catfishing, it's a 2. Most of all canoe and kayak fishing is for bass and it's catch and release. They just I and one more that catfish in my area. He and I agree on that. It takes 2 day of fishing to catch 12 - 20 catfish. In the 70's 12 - 20 catfish in one day.

8002

I have personally lost thousands of feet of river bank which is tearing away my property. Also because of massive bank erosion the river is coming dangerously close to my residence. I will lose my house if this is allowed to continue. I have lost very mature trees to erosion in the last 10 years. The massive releases are tearing away my property. I will lose a deck built last year soon! The destruction of property owners land, homes, trees and ability to utilize the river is unacceptable!!! Also unplanned or unannounced releases make it impossible for my grandchildren to enjoy the river.

8003

Everyone affected by the dam and water levels of the river and lake should have a say in how it is managed.

8003

Need better management on releasing to help with erosion

8004

Promises made to old folks when getting their approval originally ... about flood control ... downstream landowners are just as important as lake dwellers/vacationers. I've been angry for years about ALPCO's actions !

8005

Anticipate rainfall better and keep the river below flood stage when possible.

APPENDIX G

TALLAPOOSA RIVER RECREATION SURVEYS
OPEN-ENDED COMMENT RESPONSES

Tallapoosa River Recreation Surveys Open-Ended Comment Reponses

R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project
FERC No. 2628)



Prepared for:

Alabama Power

Prepared by:

Kleinschmidt Associates

November 2020

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

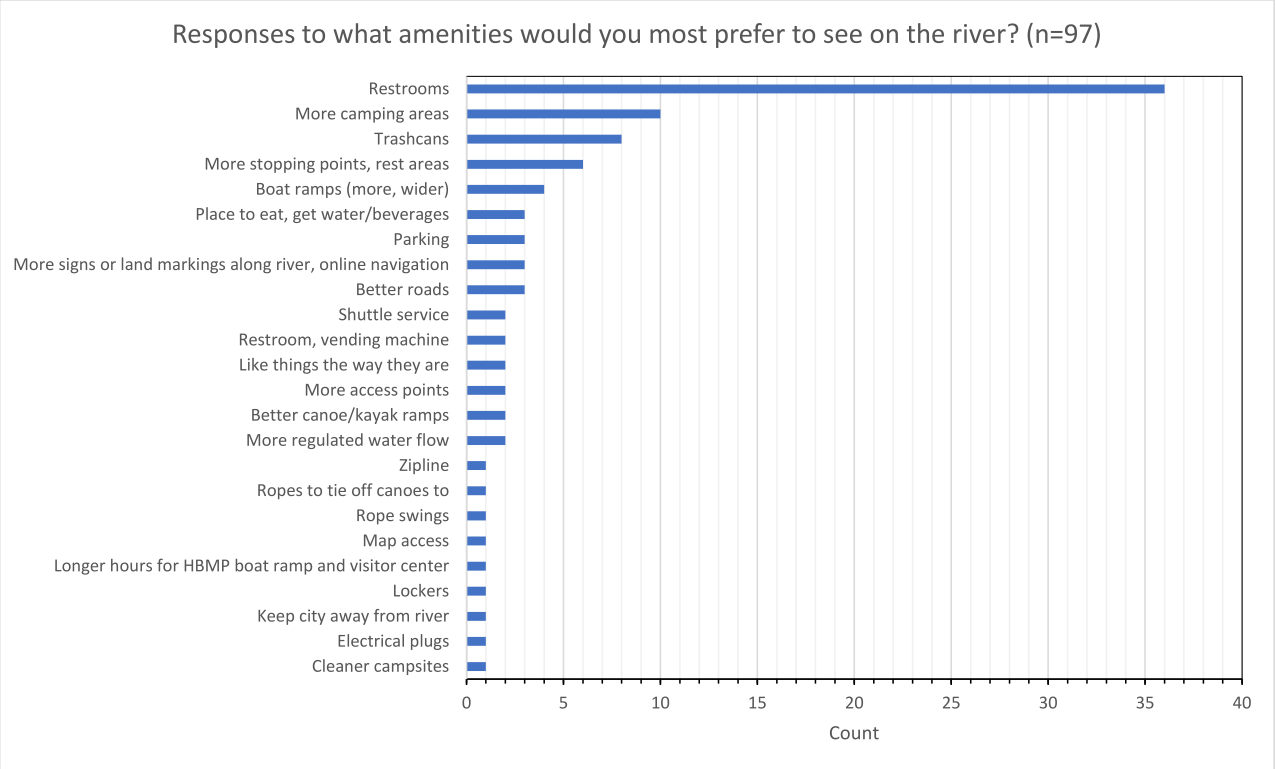
Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power) submitted the draft *Recreation Evaluation* report (Draft Report) to stakeholders on August 24, 2020. Several stakeholders submitted comments on the Draft Report. Specifically, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) and Donna Matthews submitted comments regarding the open-ended responses to the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey, Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey, and Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey. As a result of these comments on the Draft Report, the open-ended responses were analyzed, and results are presented in this report.

2.0 METHODS

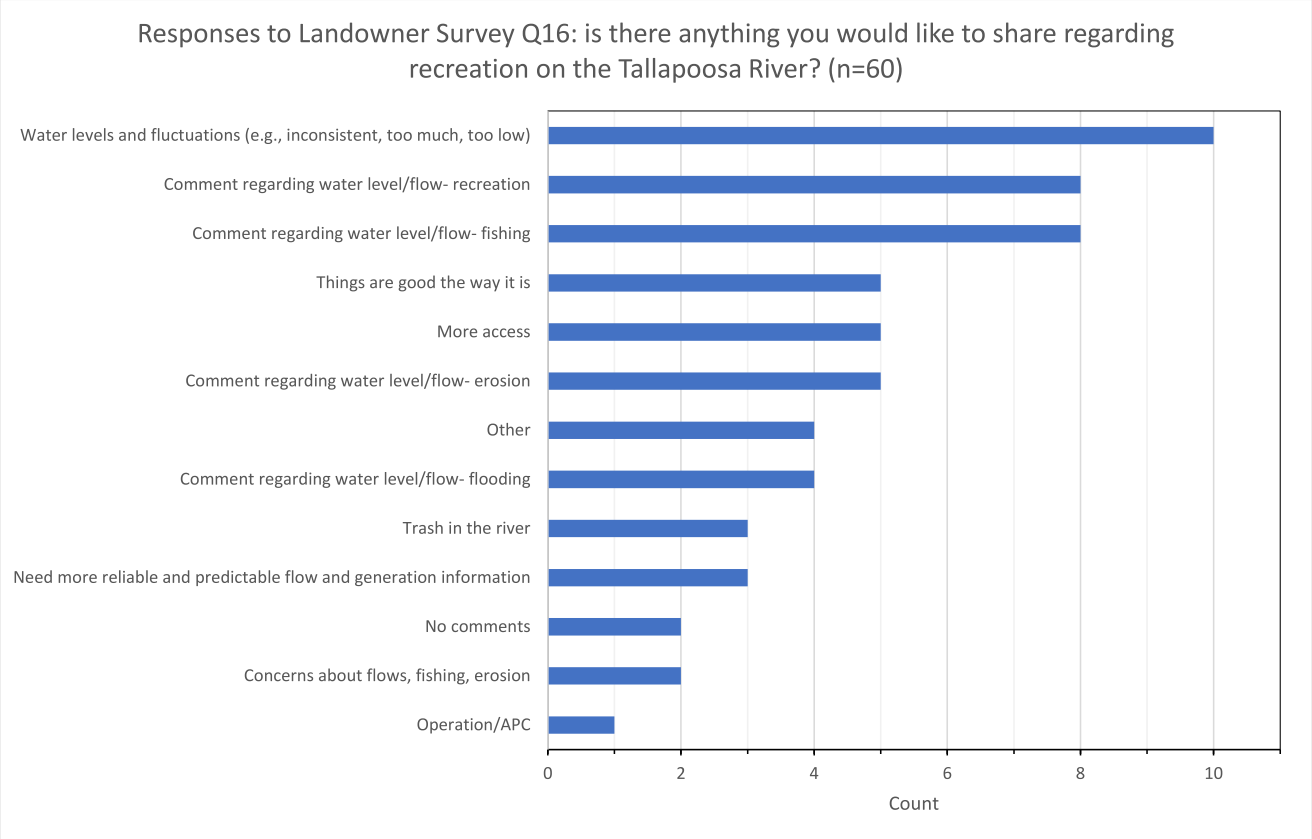
The responses from the open-ended questions in the *Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey* (Question 13 - What amenities would you most prefer to see on the river?), the *Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey* (Questions 16 - Is there anything you would like to share with Alabama Power specifically regarding recreation on the Tallapoosa River? and Question 17 - Is there anything in general you would like to share with Alabama Power regarding the R.L. Harris Dam Relicensing Process or Tallapoosa River?), and the *Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey* (Questions 12 - Is there anything you would like to share with Alabama Power specifically regarding recreation on the Tallapoosa River? and Question 13 - Is there anything in general you would like to share with Alabama Power regarding the R.L. Harris Dam Relicensing Process or Tallapoosa River?) were reviewed and grouped into categories. Each open-ended response could only be placed into one category. A frequency analysis of the categories was completed using IBM SPSS Statistics (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) 22. If the open-ended responses included details on more than one category, the entire response was grouped into the category with the main theme of the response. The results of this analysis are presented in Section 3.0.

3.0 RESULTS

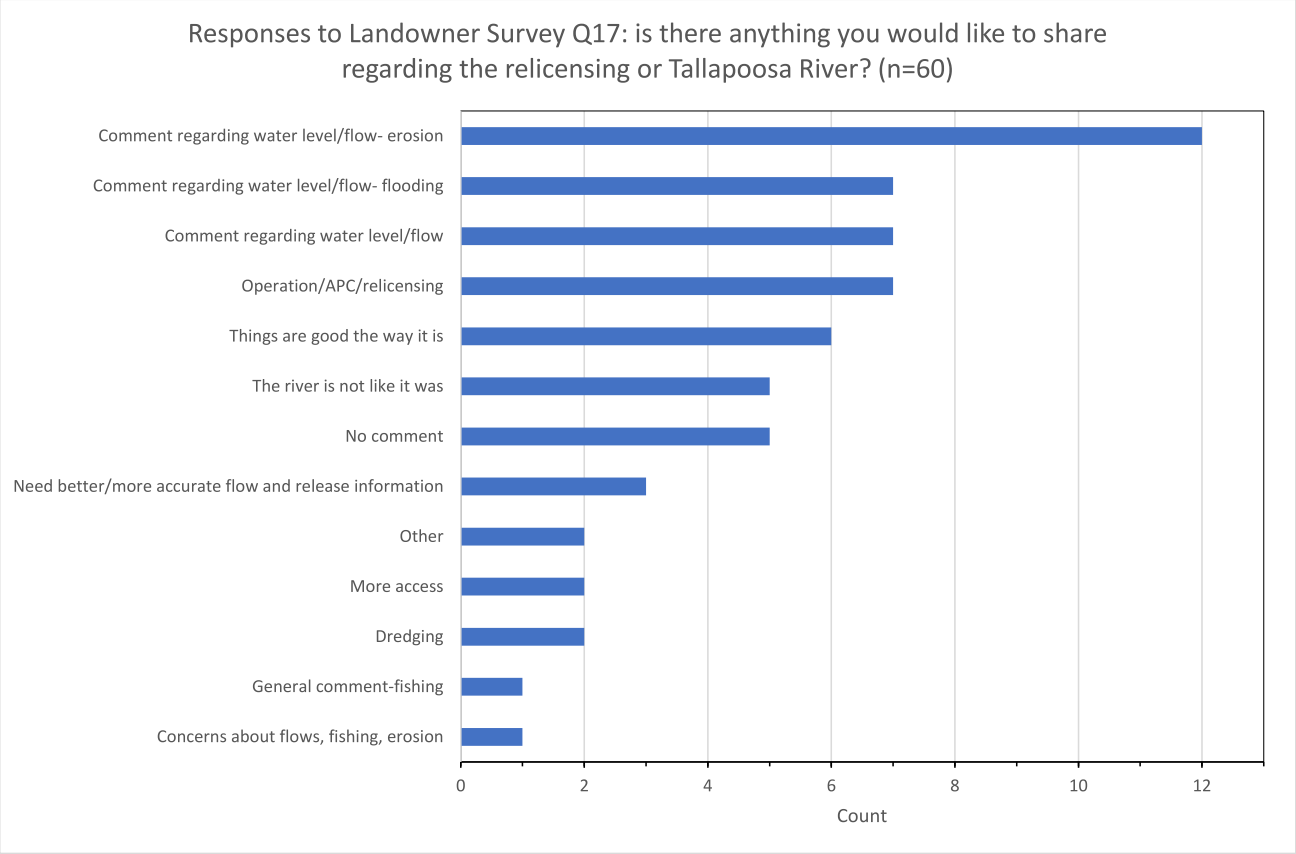
Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey **(Question 13 - What amenities would you most prefer to see on the river?)**



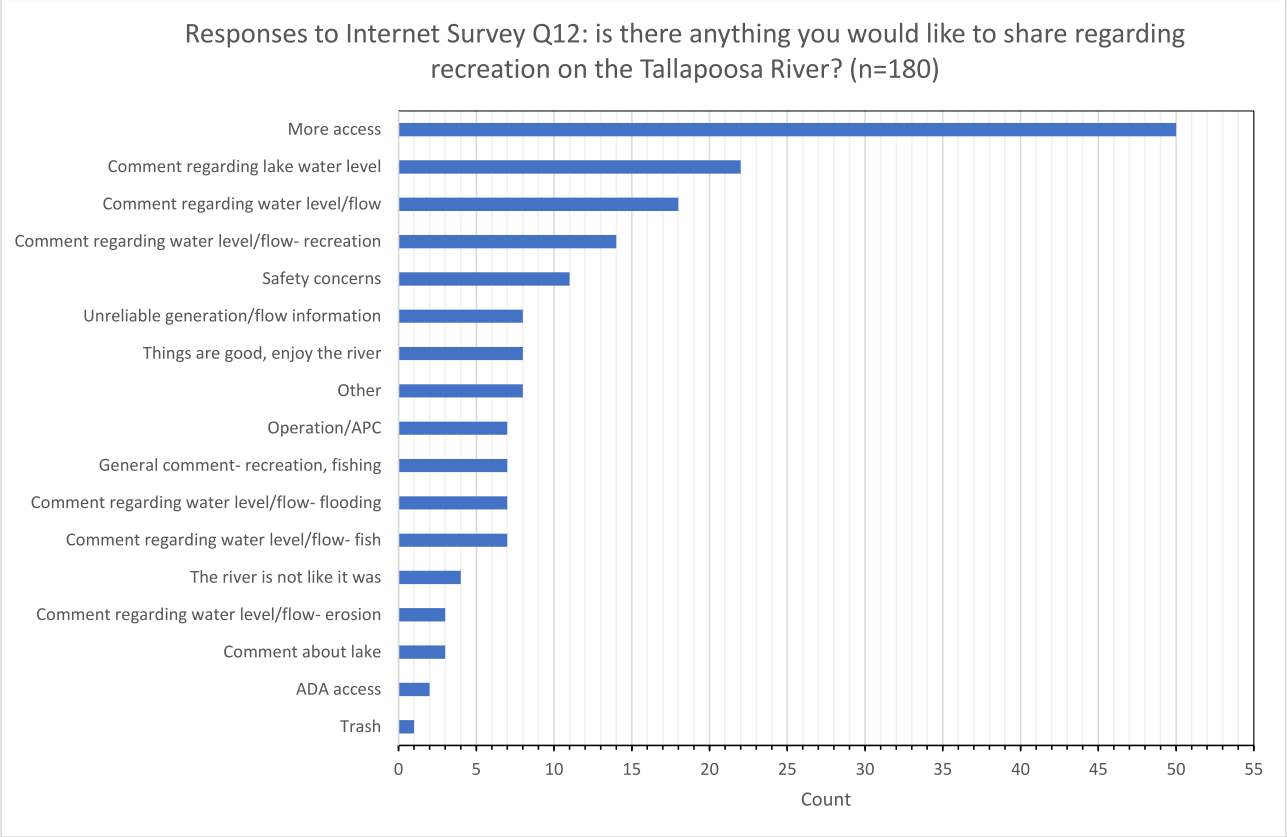
Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey **(Questions 16 - Is there anything you would like to share with Alabama Power specifically regarding recreation on the Tallapoosa River?)**



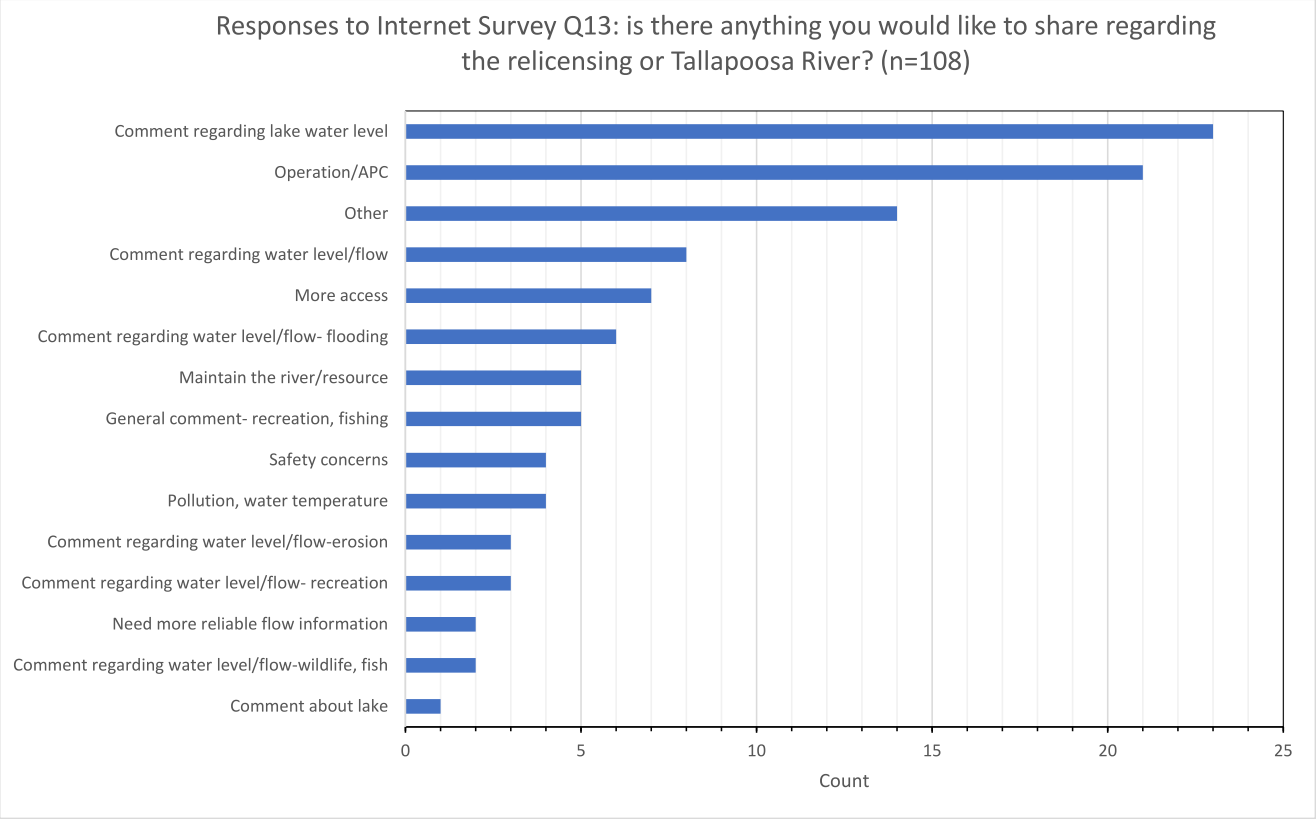
Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey **(Question 17 - Is there anything in general you would like to share with Alabama Power regarding the R.L. Harris Dam Relicensing Process or Tallapoosa River?)**



Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey **(Questions 12 - Is there anything you would like to share with Alabama Power specifically regarding recreation on the Tallapoosa River?)**



Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey **(Question 13 - Is there anything in general you would like to share with Alabama Power regarding the R.L. Harris Dam Relicensing Process or Tallapoosa River?)**



APPENDIX H

TALLAPOOSA RIVER RECREATION USER SURVEY

Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey Report



Prepared for Kleinschmidt Associates
& Alabama Power
By
Dr. Kevin M. Hunt
Private Consultant

Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey Report

Conducted by:

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Private Consultant
Starkville, Mississippi

for

Kleinschmidt Associates
and
Alabama Power
Birmingham, Alabama

May 2020

Acknowledgments

I acknowledge the assistance of several individuals involved in the project. First, I sincerely thank Amanda Fleming of Kleinschmidt Associates, and Dave Anderson and Angie Anderegg of Alabama Power for helping develop the questionnaire for this report and developing press release to inform Tallapoosa River recreationists of this opportunity to provide feedback.

KMH

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1.0 Introduction

Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power) initiated the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the 135-megawatt (MW) R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (Harris Project), FERC Project No. 2628 in 2018. The Harris Project consists of a dam, spillway, powerhouse, and those lands and waters necessary for the operation of the hydroelectric project and enhancement and protection of environmental resources. As part of the relicensing effort, Alabama Power is conducting a Recreation Evaluation Study to describe the existing Harris Project recreation facilities, discuss current and future use estimates, and evaluate the need for additional recreational facilities at the Harris Project in the future. The study has two main components: recreational use of the Harris Project (i.e., Lake Harris and public lands upstream of the dam) and recreational use of the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam. The latter originally included one study, the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey. However, after completion of that study, it was apparent that local landowners with property adjacent to the river were not being well-represented. Thus, a new study was developed in consultation with Harris Action Team (HAT)-5 stakeholders to capture information from downstream landowners about recreational use on their property and associated river-related issues. During consultation on the landowner survey research plan, HAT-5 stakeholders further requested that an anonymous internet survey be developed for river users to express opinions regarding their recreation experience on the Tallapoosa River. This report focuses on the results of the anonymous internet survey and results from the landowner survey are presented in the separate Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey Report.

1.1 Study Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of the Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey was to capture information from recreational users who may have not been intercepted during the 2019 Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey, or the 2020 Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey.

To achieve this goal, the three objectives were to:

1) Develop an internet-based survey instrument on SurveyMonkey® to collect anonymous information from Tallapoosa River recreationists on their participation in river-related recreation downstream of Harris Dam, and attitudes about various aspects of the Tallapoosa River and water levels, and

2) Disseminate the SurveyMonkey® website link to various outlets informing people of the opportunity to provide their input on Tallapoosa River recreation downstream of the Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing Boat Ramp.

3) Develop the Tallapoosa River User Survey Report based on the survey results.

2.0 Methods

2.1 Self-administered Internet-based Questionnaire

I developed a self-administered internet-based questionnaire for use in this study. A paper copy of a lead-in statement by Alabama Power and questions asked in the survey can be found in Appendix A. The questionnaire was developed in close cooperation with personnel from Alabama Power and Kleinschmidt Associates, and it was developed with input from the HAT-5 Stakeholder Group.

The questionnaire began with a lead-in statement informing participants of the purpose of the study, that the information they provided would be used to inform Alabama Power's understanding of recreational use of the Tallapoosa River, and that it would be submitted with the relicensing application as part of the overall recreation report. Additionally, participants were assured of their confidentiality and were provided with a phone number of an Alabama Power employee if they had any questions about the survey or relicensing process. After participants acknowledged reading the lead-in statement, they were taken to the internet-based survey to begin the questionnaire.

First, recreation users were asked to indicate which of ten river-related recreation activities they personally engaged in on the Tallapoosa River. These included shore or wade fishing, swimming, tubing/rafting, boating (non-fishing), fishing from a boat, canoeing (non-fishing), canoe fishing, kayaking (non-fishing), kayak fishing, and scenic/wildlife viewing. For those who indicated they participated in one or more river-related recreation activities, they were asked to specify which activity was their favorite to participate in on the Tallapoosa River. Next, recreation users were asked to indicate how many days they participated in all of the recreation activities combined, and for their favorite activity from January through December 2019. If they indicated they didn't participate in any of these activities, they were directed to later questions that didn't involve these specific uses in the survey.

Next, recreation users were asked how they accessed the Tallapoosa River in 2019 for their favorite river-related recreation activity: from private property only, from public property only, or accessed from both private and public property. They were then asked to identify the stretch of the Tallapoosa River they participated in their favorite activity most during 2019: R.L. Harris Dam to Malone Bridge, Malone Bridge to Wadley Bridge, Wadley Bridge to Bibby's Ferry, Bibby's Ferry to Germanys Ferry Road Bridge, Germanys Ferry Road Bridge to Horseshoe Bend National Military Park (HBMP), or HBMP to Jaybird Landing. Highway and road names were included to provide additional information to recreation users to assist them in that regard. Additionally, they were provided with an opportunity to select "I don't really know" if they couldn't identify a particular section of the Tallapoosa River where they participated.

Recreation users were then asked whether they checked the Tallapoosa River USGS water level gages or Alabama Power generation schedule before planning their favorite river-related recreation activity. Next, they were asked, in general, if there was a time of

day where they find the water level most acceptable to them for the favorite activity. If yes, they were asked to specify a time. Similarly, recreation users were asked if there was a month during the year in terms of water level that they found most acceptable to them for their favorite activity. If yes, they were asked to specify which month.

Next, recreation users were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with six attitudinal statements regarding their experiences on the Tallapoosa River. Response format was 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, and 5=strongly agree. Attitudinal statements were "I am concerned with bank erosion along the Tallapoosa River", "I believe the water quality on the Tallapoosa River is good", "I believe the variety and abundance of aquatic organisms (fish, reptiles, amphibians) in the Tallapoosa River is good", "I believe the variety and abundance of wildlife populations on the banks of the Tallapoosa River is good", "The overall health of the Tallapoosa River is good", and "I believe there is sufficient public access on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam for recreational purposes".

Recreation users were then asked, based on their experiences, to rate the conditions of the Tallapoosa River after Alabama Power changed the Harris Project operations in 2005. Response categories were: worse, better, same, or "I don't know".

Finally, recreation users were provided space in the online survey to provide open-ended comments to two questions: "Is there anything else you would like to share with Alabama Power specifically regarding recreation on the Tallapoosa River?", and "Is there anything in general you would like to share with Alabama Power regarding the R.L. Harris Dam Relicensing Process or Tallapoosa River?". Responses were reviewed and I removed any mention of individual names, addresses, or phone numbers to protect the confidentiality of each recreation user. Open-ended responses to these questions can be found in Appendix B & C, respectively.

Data entry was unnecessary as SurveyMonkey® provided a downloadable Microsoft Excel® database with survey responses.

2.2 Survey Implementation

The internet website with a link to the survey on SurveyMonkey® was publicly released in four ways. First, in the survey letter dated February 10, 2020 that was sent to landowners as part of the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey, they were provided with the link to the Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey to give to anyone who may access their property for river-related recreation. Second, on February 13, 2020, Alabama Power posted the link on their company website. Third, on that same day, Alabama Power distributed a press release with information about the study and website link. Fourth, on that same day the website link was distributed to the HAT-5 Stakeholder Group to distribute as they saw fit. Public release of the survey link was delayed until February 13, 2020 to give time for landowners to receive their survey mailing so they would be clear that they were to complete the downstream landowner survey and not the

recreation user survey. Survey responses were accepted until March 31, 2020, at which point the survey link was deactivated.

A total of 291 responses were received while the survey link was publicly available. No response rate can be calculated because it is unknown how many people were reached through dissemination efforts.

2.3 Statistical Tests Used in Analysis of Recreation User Surveys

Descriptive statistics including frequency distributions and means were computed using SAS Version 9.4 (SAS Institute 2016) or similar tools available in Microsoft Excel®. Analysis for this study did not require any more robust statistical procedures to be used.

3.0 Results

3.1 Downstream Tallapoosa River Recreation User Participation

When recreation users were asked to indicate what types of river-related recreation they personally engaged in on the Tallapoosa River, they indicated they participated in a variety of recreational activities. Four activities were enjoyed by over one-half of respondents (Figure 1): swimming (76.29 percent), scenic/wildlife viewing (61.17 percent), kayaking (59.79 percent), and tubing/rafting (52.23 percent). About 1.72 percent of respondents indicated they didn't participate in any listed recreational activities.

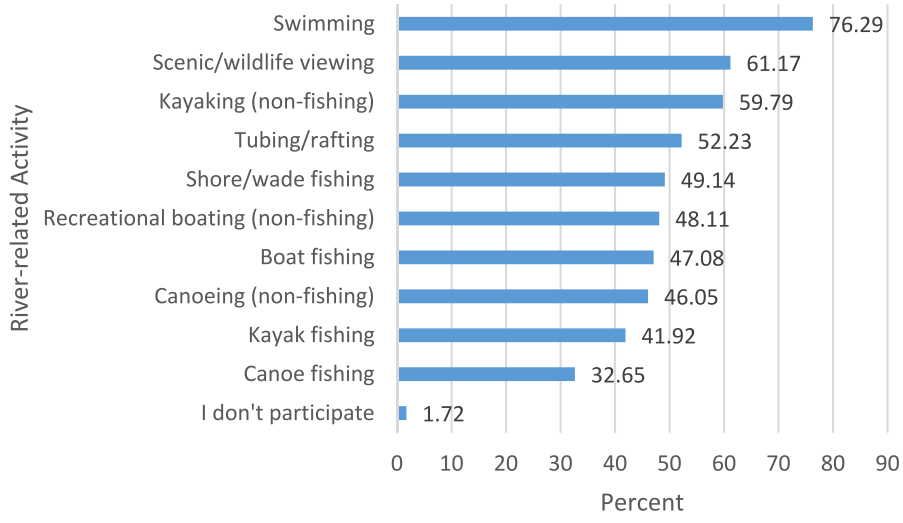


Figure 1. Percent of downstream Tallapoosa River recreation users by recreational activities they participated in on the Tallapoosa River (n=291).

When recreation users were asked to indicate how many days they participated in all recreational activities combined on the Tallapoosa River from January through December 2019, they reported participating an average of 49.16 days (median=25 days). Extrapolating to the 286 respondents who participated in at least one activity, it was estimated respondents spent **14,060 person-days** recreating on the Tallapoosa River during 2019.

When those who indicated they participated in river-related recreation were asked to indicate which recreational activity was their personal favorite to participate in on the Tallapoosa River, 24.56 percent indicated recreational boating (non-fishing), 18.25 percent indicated kayaking (non-fishing), and 15.44 percent indicated boat fishing (Figure 2). Only 35.44 percent of recreation users indicated their favorite activity included some form of recreational fishing.

When downstream recreation users were asked to indicate how many days they participated in their favorite recreational activity, they reported participating an average of 33.19 days (median=20 days). Extrapolating to the 286 respondents who participated in at least one activity, it was estimated respondents spent **9,492 person-days** on the Tallapoosa River recreating in their favorite activity in 2019.

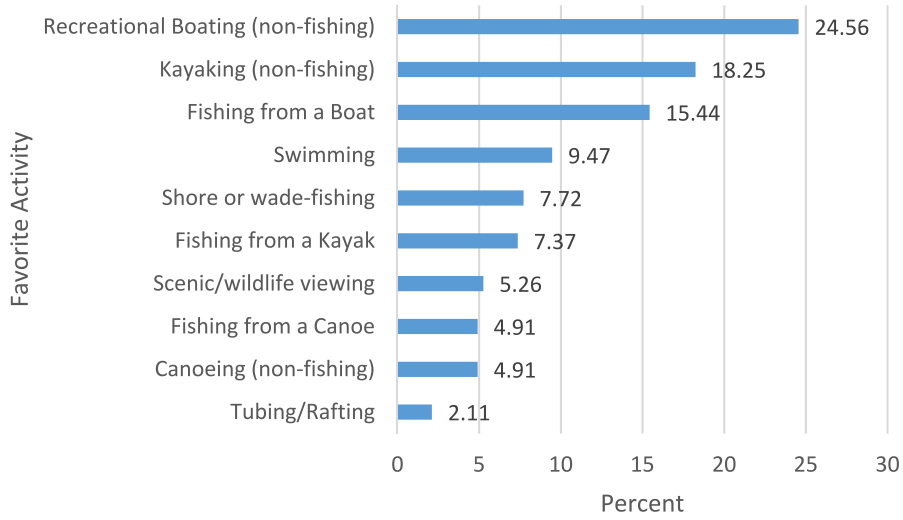


Figure 2. Percent of downstream Tallapoosa River recreation users by their favorite river-related recreation activity (n=285).

When asked how they accessed the Tallapoosa River to participate in the favorite river-related recreation activity, a plurality (45 percent) of downstream recreation users indicated they accessed the river from "private property only", 35 percent accessed the river from "both private and public property", and 20 percent indicated they accessed the Tallapoosa River from "public property only" (Figure 3).

When asked what segment of the Tallapoosa River they participated in most for their favorite river-related recreation activity, a plurality (24.38 percent) indicated "I don't really know". About 22.26 percent indicated they participated from "HBMP boat ramp to Jaybird Landing boat ramp", and from "Malone Bridge boat ramp to Wadley Bridge boat ramp", respectively (Figure 4).

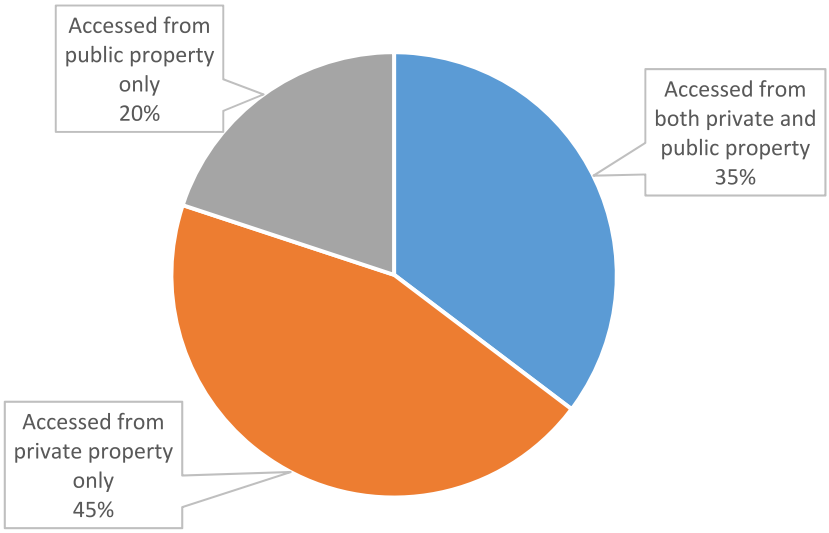


Figure 3. Percent of downstream Tallapoosa River recreation users by how they accessed the river for their favorite river-related recreational activity (n=286).

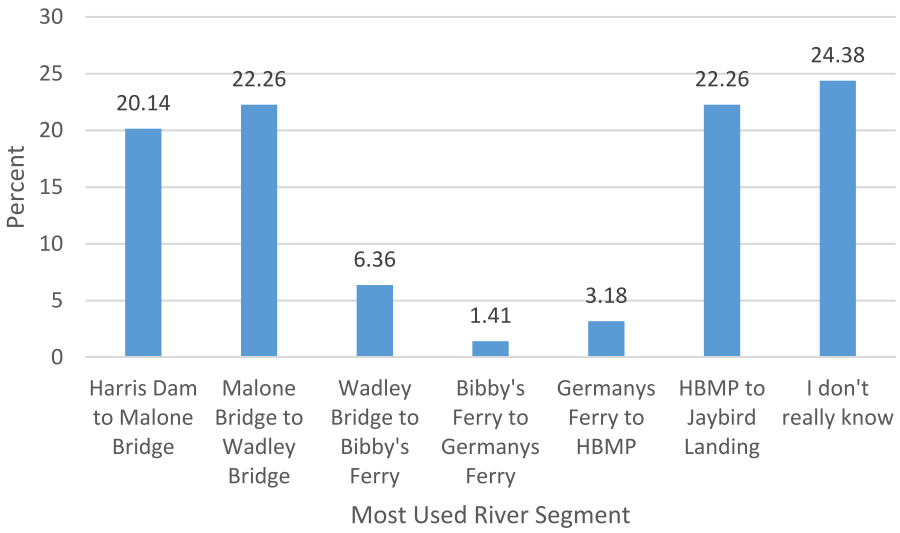


Figure 4. Percent of downstream Tallapoosa River recreation users by river segment they participated in most for their favorite river-related recreational activity (n=283).

3.2 Recreation Users and Tallapoosa River Water Levels

When asked if they check the Tallapoosa River USGS gages or Alabama Power generation schedule before participating in their favorite river-related recreation activity, about 65.38 percent recreation users (n=286) indicated they did so.

When downstream river users were asked, in general, if there was a time of day where they found the water level of the Tallapoosa River most acceptable for participating in their favorite activity, only 34.62 percent answered "yes" (n=286). Those who indicated they had a preferred time were asked to specify a particular time (Table 1). A plurality (18.95 percent) specified the noon hour as their preferred time. Over 81 percent of downstream recreation users specified a preferred time between the hours of 8:00am and 1:00 pm for their favorite activity on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam.

Table 1. Percent of downstream Tallapoosa River recreation user's preferred time for their favorite recreational activity in terms of water level (n=99).

PREFERRED TIME (military)	Frequency	Percent
400	1	1.05
600	1	1.05
700	5	5.26
800	15	15.79
900	14	14.74
1000	13	13.68
1100	9	9.47
1200	18	18.95
1300	8	8.42
1400	4	4.21
1500	4	4.21
1600	1	1.05
1700	1	1.05
1800	1	1.05
TOTAL	95	100.00

n missing=4

When downstream recreation users were asked, in general, whether there was a month of the year where they found the water level of the Tallapoosa River most acceptable for participating in their favorite activity, about 52.11 percent indicated they had a favorite month (n=284). Those who indicated they had a preferred month were asked to specify that month (Table 2). A plurality (37.41 percent) indicated that June was their favorite month in terms of water level for their favorite activity. About 83 percent of downstream recreation users specified the months of May, June, and July as their favorite months in terms of water level for their favorite activity.

Table 2. Percent of downstream Tallapoosa River recreation user's preferred month in terms of water level for their favorite river-related recreation activity (n=148).

PREFERRED MONTH	Frequency	Percent
March	3	2.04
April	11	7.48
May	31	21.09
June	55	37.41
July	36	24.49
August	6	4.08
September	1	0.68
October	4	2.72
TOTAL	147	100.00

n missing=1

3.3 Downstream Recreation User Attitudes about Tallapoosa River Conditions

Downstream recreation users were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with six statements about their experiences with conditions on the Tallapoosa River (Table 3). A majority of recreation users agreed or strongly agreed with five of the six statements: "I believe the water quality on the Tallapoosa River is good" (69.4 percent), "I believe the variety and abundance of wildlife populations on the banks of the Tallapoosa River is good" (68.7 percent), "The overall health of the Tallapoosa River is good" (62.5 percent), "I am concerned with bank erosion on the Tallapoosa River" (62.2 percent), and "I believe the variety and abundance of aquatic organisms in the Tallapoosa River is good" (61.9 percent). A plurality (46.1 percent) of downstream recreation users disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement "I believe there is sufficient public access on the Tallapoosa River downstream of the Harris Dam for recreational purposes".

Finally, downstream recreation users were asked to rate the conditions of the Tallapoosa River since Alabama Power changed the Harris Project operations in 2005. A plurality (41 percent) indicated "I don't know", about 30 percent indicated river conditions were "about the same", 15 percent indicated it was "better", and 14 percent indicated the they believe river conditions are "worse" than before 2005.

Table 3. Percent of downstream Tallapoosa River recreation users by the extent they agree or disagree with various statements about their experiences with conditions on the Tallapoosa River; ranked by mean score on five-point scale with 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree.

STATEMENT	n	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Neutral (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)	Mean Score
I am concerned with bank erosion along the Tallapoosa River	291	6.87	8.59	22.34	27.84	34.36	3.74
I believe the water quality on the Tallapoosa River is good	291	7.56	7.22	15.81	54.98	14.43	3.62
I believe the variety and abundance of wildlife populations on the banks of the Tallapoosa River is good	291	6.87	7.22	17.18	60.82	7.9	3.56
I believe the variety and abundance of aquatic organisms in Tallapoosa River is good	291	8.59	10.31	19.24	50.17	11.68	3.46
The overall health of the Tallapoosa River is good	291	9.97	11.00	16.49	51.20	11.34	3.43
I believe there is sufficient public access on the Tallapoosa River downstream of the Harris Dam for recreational purposes	291	21.31	24.74	17.87	29.55	6.53	2.75

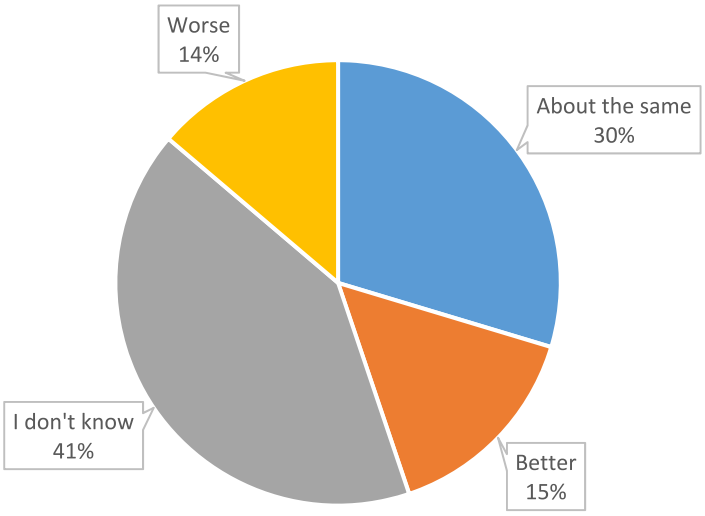


Figure 5. Percent of downstream Tallapoosa River recreation users how they rate river conditions since 2005 (n=290).

4.0 Conclusions

- This was not a scientific study that used a random sample of Tallapoosa River recreation users downstream of the Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing boat ramp. It was a convenience sample of individuals who were made aware of this study from various dissemination efforts. Further, since respondents were not randomly selected from a known population (e.g., sampling frame) it is unknown how well respondents represent downstream Tallapoosa River recreation users. As such, results cannot be extrapolated beyond the 291 individuals who participated in the online survey.

- Over 48 percent of respondents to this survey indicated they participated in "Recreational boating (non-fishing)". Additionally, "Recreational boating (non-fishing)" was the most preferred recreational activity for nearly 25 percent of respondents. By comparison, in the scientifically executed Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access Count and Survey Study fewer than 3 percent of all randomly sampled recreation user trips involved "Recreational boating (non-fishing)". Further, in the scientifically executed Downstream Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey Study only 22 percent of landowners indicated "Recreational boating (non-fishing)" as an activity they participated in, and **none** of them indicated it was their favorite activity. These findings make it hard to verify that respondents were actual downstream Tallapoosa River recreational users, or they errantly reported their Lake Harris recreational activity along with their downstream activity.

- A thorough review of the open-ended comments provided by respondents makes it quite clear that some used this online survey opportunity to make comments about Lake Harris and not the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam. Many of the comments dealt with Lake Harris water levels, concerns of Lake Harris homeowners, and recreational activity on Lake Harris. Additionally, it is apparent some downstream landowners also participated in the survey even though they received a landowner survey. Combined, it made it difficult for me to make any substantive conclusions from survey results because of the "noise" in the data.

- Nevertheless, many in this study likely were actual downstream river users (not landowners or lake users and homeowners) and their participation was appreciated. Where it was impossible for me to parse out the data of those who were and weren't actual downstream river recreation users, one can parse out the open-ended comments about river-related recreation. Those river-related comments are the most useful piece of information obtained from this study.

5.0 Literature Cited

SAS Institute, Inc. 2016. Base SAS® 9.4 Procedures Guide: Statistical Procedures, Sixth Edition., Cary, NC, SAS Institute Inc.

APPENDIX A

SELF-ADMINISTERED INTERNET-BASED QUESTIONNAIRE

Tallapoosa River User Survey

HARRIS DAM RELICENSING

Alabama Power

SURVEY LEAD-IN AS PROVIDED IN SURVEY MONKEY

As part of the relicensing process for the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (Harris Project) (FERC Project No. 2628), Alabama Power is seeking input from recreationists along the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing. The survey asks about your use of the Tallapoosa River for river-related recreation and your attitudes about various aspects of the Tallapoosa River and water levels. We have also provided room in the survey to provide any comments you may have about resource issues on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam or the Harris Project relicensing process.

Survey results will be used to inform Alabama Power's understanding of recreational use of the Tallapoosa River and will be submitted with the license application as part of the recreation report. The information you provide will remain strictly confidential, and you will not be identified with your answers. Answers will be grouped with other respondents in a non-identifiable manner for reporting purposes.

If you have any questions, contact Angie Anderegg for more information at 205-257-2251.

1. Which of the following types of river-related recreation do you personally engage in on the Tallapoosa River? ***(Please check all that apply)***

_____ A. SHORE OR WADE FISHING
_____ B. SWIMMING
_____ C. TUBING
_____ D. BOATING (NON-FISHING)
_____ E. BOAT FISHING
_____ F. CANOEING (NON-FISHING)
_____ G. CANOE FISHING
_____ H. KAYAKING (NON-FISHING)
_____ I. KAYAK FISHING
_____ J. SCENIC/WILDLIFE VIEWING
_____ K. I DON'T PARTICIPATE IN ANY ***(If K only Please go to Question #10)***

2. Of the ten (10) river-related recreation activities listed in Question #1, what is your personal **favorite** to participate in on the Tallapoosa River? ***(Please circle only one)***

A B C D E F G H I J

3. From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, how many days did you participate in all of the river-related recreation activities listed in Question #1 **combined** on the Tallapoosa River?

_____ DAYS

4. From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, how many days did you personally participate in your **favorite** river-related recreation activity you selected in Question #2 on the Tallapoosa River?

_____ DAYS

5. From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, which of the following best describes how you accessed the Tallapoosa River for your **favorite** river-related recreation activity you selected in Question #2?

1 ACCESSED FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY ONLY
2 ACCESSED FROM PUBLIC PROPERTY ONLY
3 ACCESSED FROM BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROPERTY

6. Between which of the following stretches of the Tallapoosa River best describes where you participate **most** for your **favorite** river-related recreation activity you selected in Question #2? ***(Please circle only one)***

1 R.L. HARRIS DAM TO MALONE BRIDGE (CR 15)
2 MALONE BRIDGE (CR 15) TO WADLEY BRIDGE (HWY 22)
3 WADLEY BRIDGE (HWY 22) TO BIBBY'S FERRY (CR 123)
4 BIBBY'S FERRY (CR 123) TO GERMANY'S FERRY ROAD BRIDGE
5 GERMANY FERRY'S ROAD BRIDGE TO HORSESHOE BEND NATIONAL MILITARY PARK (HWY 49)
6 HORSESHOE BEND NATIONAL MILITARY PARK (HWY 49) TO JAYBIRD LANDING (BOONE VALLEY RD.)
7 I DON'T REALLY KNOW

7. Do you check the Tallapoosa River USGS water level gages or Alabama Power generation schedule before planning your **favorite** river-related recreation activity?

1 YES
2 NO

8. In general, is there a time of day where you find the water level of the Tallapoosa River most acceptable to you for participating in your favorite river-related recreation activity?

   1 YES – (***Please specify TIME: _____ AM or PM***)
   2 NO

9. In general, is there a month of the year where you find the water level of the Tallapoosa River most acceptable to you for participating in your favorite river-related recreation activity?

   1 YES – (***Please specify MONTH: _____)***
   2 NO

10. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your experiences with the Tallapoosa River:

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a)	I am concerned with bank erosion along the Tallapoosa River	1	2	3	4	5
b)	I believe the water quality on the Tallapoosa River is good	1	2	3	4	5
c)	I believe the variety and abundance of aquatic organisms (fish, reptiles, amphibians) in the Tallapoosa River is good	1	2	3	4	5
d)	I believe the variety and abundance of wildlife populations on the banks of the Tallapoosa River is good	1	2	3	4	5
e)	The overall health of the Tallapoosa River is good	1	2	3	4	5
f)	I believe there is sufficient public access on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam for recreational purposes	1	2	3	4	5

11. Alabama Power changed the Harris Project operations in 2005. Based on your experiences, how would you rate the conditions of the Tallapoosa River since that time?

   1 WORSE
   2 BETTER
   3 SAME
   4 I DON'T KNOW

12. Is there anything you would like to share with Alabama Power specifically regarding <u>recreation</u> on the Tallapoosa River? Please use the box provided below for your comments.

13. Is there anything in general you would like to share with Alabama Power regarding the R.L. Harris Dam Relicensing Process or Tallapoosa River? Please use the box provided below your comments.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

APPENDIX B

OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS TO "IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH ALABAMA POWER SPECIFICALLY REGARDING RECREATION ON THE TALLAPOOSA RIVER?'

9002

Would like to see the wate level adjusted 4 feet for winter pool verus 8 feet, if 8 feet is needed for maintenance adjust less often maybe every 4th or 5th year

9003

Maintain water level year round. Lower level every few years to allow for maintenance

9005

The water levels below the dam are too unpredictable for safe recreational use for individuals using the river. The water levels rise too rapidly to provide a safe place for recreation.

9006

I would enjoy the river much more if the water level was kept at a higher level during winter months.

9007

You can call the Harris Dam and they will not give out true information about letting the water off. I can not depend on Alabama Power for safety. We never have any warning that the water is going to be released. I grew up going to the Tallapoosa River. We never had to worry about going swimming, fishing or any other activities. I hate that about the river today. I have to tell my grandchildren we can plan on swimming or any other activities until we get to the river. This is really unfair to the land owners on the river as to the Alabama Power control want, when and how we can enjoy our day by what Alabama Power does with the water flow. My family lost everything they had on the river when the Alabama Power flooded the river back in 2003. My family lost a mobile home, one house and all our belonging that was not tied down. Our banks are being swept away because of water flow. A big tree is washed away and takes about 5-6 foot of land with it. The fishing is nothing like it used to be before the dam. It is just hard on us people that knew and grew up on the river before Alabama Power put Harris Dam in. I know the people above the dam do not care at all about the properties below the dam. It is not fair but no one seems to care. It is sad!!!!

9011

We love kayaking down the river and always see others enjoying the river as well.

9014

Run more water in summer, more public access

9015

Water quantity seems to be better during the work week. Weekends not so much. Wish river had consistent flow and less emphasis on keeping Lake Martin at "summer fullness"

9017

Boats travel to close to docks. Put up signage to caution boaters.

9018

Winter level drop of 8’ is too extreme. Removes numerous spawning sites; thus, creating a low fertility rating for fish. Should go to 4’ and determine flood risk vs 8’.

9020

We had a place to put in at Malone and now it is gated. I know the tallapoosa is part of the Alabama river trail but how can we access if there is know access. In Georgia where the tallapoosa originates they have places all up and down the river to get in and out. We need public access.

9021

In the peak summer months is there a way to keep a steady flow most of the time instead of it coming in bursts it would make fishing and tubing a lot easier to do and plan

9023

Need public assess at Malone and Wadley bridges .

9024

Please don’t drop river so much in winter. Technology with the weather is much better than it was 20 years ago make informed disisions to lower river 5to 7 days ahead not always be planning the 500 year flood

9026

Lake Martin is the cleanest, most beautiful lake in the SouthEast. We camped on Lake Martin for 35 years and have lived on the lake for 9. It’s beautiful summer and winter and we have recreation we do in each season. Keep our lake levels where they currently are so all of us lake lovers can continue to enjoy and use it.

9028

Generation schedules should not change in order for people to make plans. Generation should occur on Friday PM so that there will be flow on Saturday

9030

My family has owned land on the river for generations. In an effort to avoid land erosion and save the precious gathering space we have as a family, several generations of us have worked tirelessly summer after summer with our extended family and the land owners to preserve what is there. The unfortunate reality is that the work of my childhood and adolescence will undoubtedly be undone before the next generation is even old enough to start on the task themselves, which they shouldn't have even needed to do because of the amount of work we did previously. The sheer level of negligence, mismanagement, and lack of empathy by the dam operators and owners is disgusting. We can trace our roots in this land and this country to back to the Revolutionary War. Our family is filled with veterans who want to live the rest of their summers visiting in joyful reunion with each other, myself included. I actually returned to the Tallapoosa in 2019 for the first time in many years after 2 combat deployments to Afghanistan, and I

was appalled at the conditions on the river. We've invested our time, money, and love into the tallapoosa, and year after year the dam continues to create issues for humans and wildlife alike.

9032

The flooding and bank erosion is completely out of control... besides flooding from rainfall, many times the water level has risen to a height that I feared we would flood in the night and be carried away in our camper by the current. If the water level doesn't get taken care of, our camping spot will cease to exist.

9038

Boat ramp below the dam

9039

Water level should be left up longer And lowered less

9042

Some of the best times is in Nov/Dec but the water LEVELS are TOO low to launch a boat, and the shore lines are too far to fish from to the water level

9043

Campsites needed.

9044

Could there be a shorter winter pool for more year round use of the lake?

9045

Need campgrounds

9046

Don't lower the lake level so low in winter

9049

I am concerned about the amount of silt that has enter the river, especially the Little Tallapoosa River. This prevents me from being able to get my boat in the river year round.

9051

Please consider increasing winter pool level.

9052

Would like for water levels to be left up longer and don't drop as low. Cannot help but believe the water quality would be cleaner and healthier if level were not dropped so low.

9054

Access point at the dam for canoes, kayaks, small boats.

9055

I am a new homeowner at Lake Wedowee. I wish the water levels were higher from October - April. I can't use my boat during this time to enjoy the lake.

9058

Would love to have water longer.

9059

Keep lake level same Year round

9064

please don't release anymore land. I believe the population of lake Wedowee is perfect.

9065

adding primitive access points (for canoe/kayak/tubing) at the public area just south of the dam/tailrace, at the Malone Bridge, and at the Wadley bridge would allow for additional and safer enjoyment of these beautiful parts of the river.

9068

Our family enjoys our time on Lake Wedowee and we appreciate the way Alabama Power has managed the lake

9069

Is it possible to not not let the water down 8 fT and maybe go to to 4 to 6ft. With this rainy season it seems to have helped. I don’t know if the 8 ft helps keep the lake cleaner?

9072

Would like wake boats to stay in deep water (on the South end). They tear up our docks on the North end.

9073

I believe that the water levels should only be dropped to a maximum of 4’ during winter. The lake would be safer to navigate, more scenic and useable for year round recreation

9074

excessive boat speeds, large wakes (erosion, safety for swimmers and small craft), need more marine patrol (I know, not your responsibility)

9075

I would love to see winter pool at 788 instead of 785.

9076

Better regulation on releases and flow rates to help stop the risk of people losing their homes!

9077

When we call to check the river levels it's always unreliable. Sometimes they say it'll not be generating and next thing you know you are having to hurry up and get out of the water before you get taken by the current. My son loves to swim but we get scared at times due to unreliable water levels! We also have lost property due to water levels!

9078

This is all we have. We would love to continue our outings at the river . Country life is all we ever known and I want my kids to get the same enjoyment.

9080

The water level isn't ever reliable to plan even by calling and checking the releases. There is no consistency and it's never accurate. The river has become extremely dangerous because of the inadequate management of the dam. River property owners are losing acreage from the erosion of the banks. Aquatic life has significantly decreased over the years with a drastic drop in the past year.

9081

It's hard when you have Jon boat and want to enjoy a nice day on the river and the water is flowing so fast you can't do it due to water levels and flow. It's even worse after rain when it rains and they open up all flood gates it's kinda like the dam could care less of the damages it causes to property down river. No matter how much it rains houses on lake wedowee will not flood due to elevation. But you open up two gates on the river and water is coming out of the banks at the river in spots and if it's mid day on a Wednesday people have to leave work to get property onto high grounds and if you can't get off work you will lose property and other owners will more thna likely keep it. All we ask is to think of the river levels when you open the gates and how it could impact people down river.

9082

There needs to be more regulation on when and how much water is released because it is causing massive amounts of flooding and erosion.

9083

I wish the lake would remain at full levels

9084

More public access areas are needed for local residents and visitors. More day use camp grounds and recreation areas/playgrounds for children.

9085

AP must identify unsafe passages and areas on the lake (low visibility, shallow, narrow clearance, etc)

9087

Bigger boat ramps and parking. More swimmer friendly camping areas

9088

Keep full pool levels 20 days longer.(10 at beginning and 10 at end of full pool schedule)

9089

Do not allow houseboats or anything that would allow sewage to be dumped in the lake. And if possible, please leave the lake at full pool until October. Our kids have a break in September and it's nice to come out here that week, as the weather is still warm.

9091

Bring to full summer pool by May 1.

9092

Please do not drop the water level so much!

9093

Deteriorating docks and sea walls need to be removed/repaired.

9094

Wake boats are destroying docks and causing erosion . there was one day we were boating and my husband had to completely power down. It felt like the wave coming at us was going to flip us.

9097

We LOVE Lake Wedowee! As land owners and permanent residents on the lake we wish the winter level did not go down so low.

9098

Land owners along the Tallapoosa are the ones you should be asking these questions Clean Water is our basic need to survive if you allow more access for humans it will destroy the beauty the River provides

9099

I wish the water level was kept up longer in the fall. After the heat of summer often forces folks not to go out on the water it would be so nice to enjoy a boat ride when the leaves are changing and the temps cooler.

9101

Keep the larger boat off the lake. Do not allow racing nor group activities

9103

Would like to ban use if wave making wake boats and add walleye, striper, and hybrids to the fish population.

9104

I would like to see water levels only go down 5 feet each year.

9105

Water level is far too low I when dropped. Dropping 3 feet less would allow for more recreational use of the lake and river.

9108

I would very much like to see the winter water level higher than it is now. I spend a lot of time fishing and it would greatly increase the use of my access point.

9112

I think we need camping and swimming options

9113

There needs to be some good public access areas

9114

It is very dangerous, because one never knows when the water will rise. there is no warning device that can be heard in Wadley, no warning except you you happen to see a post on Facebook , and not everyone stays on the computer or has a smart phone to get messages.

9115

Public access at Malone and Wadley please 🙏

9116

There is never enough water in summer to keep fish an wildlife plenty. The ducks nest get washed away cause of flooding from dam. The fish eggs get washed away from the current of water 0 to 20 in matter of minutes. Nothing can get use to the change. The banks of river are washing away from rise of water from the dam.

9117

More boat access for the public... more water below the dam in the summer.... there were so many dead fish this pst summer floating down the river...the water stayed too low

9118

More water below the dam in the summer

9119

The fishing is horrible below the dam and down the river. There is not enough water going down through there in the summer time. In July of 2019 there was very large amounts of dead fish below the dam and down the river due to the water not moving. We also need public ramps on the river below the dam maybe in the Malone area also for kayaks and small Jon boats. And also pay more attention to the rain. Learn to drop the lake levels before the rain so flood gates don’t have to open and wash people property away below the dam.

9120

Needs more handicapped accessible bank fishing and areas for handicapped to picnic that can be reached easily with covered tables and easy bank fishing

9121

If water level was brought up a few weeks sooner it would help with the spawning of fish, especially the crappie.

9122

We need a constant flow from the Harris dam to improve the fish population so they have a place to bed and lay their eggs without the water sweeping their eggs away

9123

There needs to be more public access and maybe even a small park

9124

Camping for weekends

9126

I grew up on that river and it IS NOT EVEN CLOSE to what it used to be.

9128

Considering downstream damage and considering APCO gets about 6% of it's total power from hydroelectric generation, I seriously doubt this dam is worth it. Turn it into a run-of-river operation and focus on a better way of generating electricity from it (more and smaller turbines).

9129

I would like to see the lake maintain a higher level during winter months.

9133

I would like to see restrooms, ADA compliant access and lighted areas for launching and vehicle parking.

9137

We need more public access and recreation and public areas on the lake. Would loved to have a camping facility as well so we don’t have to travel to other lakes for that enjoyment

9138

More public access

9139

Need public acess

9142

continue to provide adequate recreational releases from Harris dam

9144

access to the mouth of Crooked creek just below Harris dam for canoe and kayak.

9145

Need to improve information and warnings to recreational users regarding river conditions down stream daily.

9146

There has to be a way to maintain water flow better from the dam. There needs to be a constant flow at all times. The water temp fluctuates so badly in the summer not all marine life can survive. The hotter water temp also kills off important moss and other needed vegetation in the river. Erosion is also a very bad problem. I have notice lots of change In the river from Malone to timber gut at mouth of lake Martin. The erosion is washing down river and creating sand bars and shallow areas. We people below the dam love this river as much as the lake goers do above the dam. I understand also how a hydro power turbine works, and it's runs off demand not a certain schedule. But if we can have space station in outer space surly we can find a way to help persevere this beautiful river! Thank you for you time.

9150

Need more water flow to navigate the area of water in which I use.

9152

People need to stop littering.

9153

Very thankful for the tallapoosa river and the access we have to it. Not all rivers are as accessible nor as clean and we should be thankful.

9154

It is awful. The RL Harris reservoir has completely destroyed the river

9155

Operation of wake boats and wakeboarding should be limited to areas south of highway 48. The lake is not wide enough on the Little Tallapoosa river for these activities.

9156

Put in a constant flow turbine. You have killed the river, for the almighty dollar. Alabama power company, is not conservation minded.they have made several species EXTINCT below the dam. Never to be seen again in my lifetime. They have taken something very precious to me away. The river is dead. I have been on the river for over50 years. I have property on the river. Not as valuable as it once was. Ran up and down the river with real conservationists. That were born around 1900.they made a living off of

the river. They would stare to death on the river of today. I could go on and on. I just touched on a few key factors.

9157

More public Access take in/take out spots would be great.

9158

Stop flushing the toilet you washing us away.

9159

I would like to see AL Power make R.L.Harris Resivor/Lake Wedowee more accessible for ALL, including those with disabilities! There are no safe places for the disabled to be able to fish! Flat Rock is not! We should have access to picnic areas, parks/playgrounds, public docks for all...disabled & healthy alike...to enjoy our beautiful lake! Please build areas around the lake for all to be able to enjoy it, like the Army Corp of Engineer's did at the lakes in GA that they built! Everyone deserves to enjoy the lake, and not just those who are wealthy and have boats & jet ski's. Flat Rock is not safe for those who are disabled, who can't get on a boat or pwc!

9161

Raise water level please. Most of the time not enough water to run outboard motor, Restock catfish !

9162

Please time Harris releases so peak flows hit Horseshoe Bend mid-morning

9163

Not only poor water level below dam, also back water level needs to stay up longer than it does

9164

Love the Tallapoosa River

9165

The most popular section is the horseshoe bend to jaybird section. The summer release is typically from 6 to 7, AM & PM. That means that the flows at Horseshoe Bend peak about 8am. The river flow is barely sufficient with peak flows after a one hour release. I would like to see the evening release delayed enough to make peak flows at HB later in the morning, at least a couple of hours.

9166

It would be nice to have an accurate generation schedule. You can call some days and it will say no generation is scheduled for the day . And the next thing you know the water is released and its up 4 to 5 feet. Hard to plan a day like that and can be dangerous for children!

9167

We need more nesting sites for the bald eagle population

9168

Need bathrooms at all boat ramps

9169

How do we clean tree debris, which gathers into log jams, impeding kayaking and canoeing?

9170

There is no really nice area for families around the lake to enjoy. Just a whole bunch of lake houses. It would we nice to have facilities, campgrounds, activities.

9171

Multiple public recreational swimming areas.

9172

My history of canoeing and fishing on the Tallapoosa river below the dam is mostly limited to use of the river between Germany Ferry Road and Jay Bird Landing. If hydropower dam operations changed I would be interested in using the upper sections but I consider them too impaired to use currently.

9173

Lots of family memories made there every year at our family reunion

9174

Need more access. Jay Bird Creek landing needs to be better maintained.

9175

Be nice to have a little more water down stream. Maybe a foot deeper than normal flow.

9176

We need more public parks/lake access areas for families. Areas with tables and beach access

9178

Lots of older trees have fallen in from erosion .the part of the river I use water levels are so low you have to push or walk your kayak

9179

Less running of martin dam during low oxygen and extreme heat to minimize striper die off

9181

My family and I love to go out kayaking on the river with friends and family. It's one of the things my kids look forward to every summer

9182

Yes start preparing for rain instead of waiting till the day of the event and flood everybody down river out

9184

We love floating the river and also camping out as there isn't much to do around here. It's something the whole family can enjoy together without spending a ton of money. We tend to float Horseshoe to Jay Birds most due to the ease of access at both ends. If there was a way to create more public spots at other sections of the river to put in that would be awesome. Somewhere that you wouldn't have to "know someone" to be able to gain access. Think about this....the town of Helen,Ga....people go there to enjoy the tubing(because it's promoted tv/inet/fliers)... next thing you know somebody decides it's a good place to start a business. There comes more jobs and more revenue.

9188

A slightly higher sustained flow would help the overall health of this stretch. The sudden turn on of high flows is not good for the river. Longer more sustained flows at medium levels would be good for recreation on this stretch.

9189

We need a public recreation area closer to Wedowee that’s not rocky like Bald Rock

9190

There is not enough public access along the river. This time of the year the river is unable due to water levels being so high.

9191

Late afternoon and evening recreation on the river is hazardous due to rising water levels - in Wadley - beginning at about 5:30 pm. One needs to be upstream of the takeout point prior to that time or else will be struggling to go upstream due to the current.

9193

Why do you flood down river properties

9194

We can no longer enjoy our family time during the month of July because of the changing water levels.

9195

The up and down of the river makes it difficult to let young children play in the river...it is hard to boat in very shallow water... but in the heavy rains it floods the area and erosion is bad on the banks and washes land owners land down the river

9196

Water levels and temperature fluctuate drastically. It is either not safe or there is not enough water for rec use. Indicator species are being flushed downstream. TURBINES ARE TOO BIG!!!

9197

Keep up the good work.

9198

Late afternoon release allow for tubing trips on portions of the river too shallow to tube since the dam has been in place. When it's released after dark, we get the bad end of the stick by the river being too shallow during daylight and to dark too tube when released. I've enjoyed the partial releases that bring the river closer to predam levels, but would still like full release at late afternoon times.

9199

Please control the water level down stream with a little more sense

9201

Over the course of the last 15 years, I have see high levels of erosion to the banks between Malone and Wadley Bridge. Also alot of silt and sand has washed down river to Lake Martin causing a loss of water holding ability for that lake.

9202

Below the dam there is an issue with people racing sea doo's through areas where property owners and children and family's are in the river

9204

Please don't restrict recreation.

9205

Quit flooding downstream to protect the big recreation and homes upstream.

9209

I like that the schedule for generating seems pretty consistent. I know to have my children out of the water or to be mindful of imminent rising water levels because the water rises at basically the same times every day. I like that the water does not rise as quickly as it did when I was a kid, giving me time to get out of the river to wait and see how high the water will be. I do however find it difficult to paddle against the current if the water level is up at all. I don't mind this aspect so much if it means there will be a long term return of the variety of wildlife that used to live in and around the river

9211

There is no solution that keeps the dam at weedowee open. I honestly believe Southern Company is more concerned about the "lake home owners money for southern co. " than about the environmental effects of the dam and the effects of property and live stock owners down stream!!!!!

9212

Need more parking at 48 Bridge ramp.

9214

Improved, secure access is always a concern.

9215

Recreation on the Tallapoosa is continuing to grow and become more popular. Please protect our river

9216

Recreation is the MOST important use, and excellent water quality is THE most important condition for recreational use.

9221

I would like to have higher levels of water in fall. The temperatures in the fall are more pleasant than summer.

9226

More access points please

9227

Could use some more access points in between the main bridges

9228

More public access please!!!

9232

More access / boat ramps!

9233

I believe there is a general lack of access to the river.

9234

There should be public access Canoe/kayak/boat ramps at Malone and Wadley. Improve access at Bibbys Ferry. Clean up Germany's Ferry like Jaybird.

9235

Make the tentative generation schedule more accurate

9239

In recent. Years we have access to full pond till October.

9240

The Tallapossa is a very special one of a kind place. The Tallapoosa red eye bass is a treasured fish only found in waters of the Tallapoosa. The fly fishing on the Tallapoosa is some of the best fishing in the southeast!

9241

Why is water quality at Thurlow below Yates dam so poor? There should be fish advisories posted at all public access ramps so fishermen know what fish not to eat.

9242

Access to the Tallapoosa river below Harris dam is unacceptable. The public has been accessing the Tallapoosa river below Harris dam since before the Dam was built and continued to do so despite the challenges presented by Alabama Power. There is no safe access to the river below Harris dam. It was much easier before the dam was built and Alabama Power needs to do the right thing and provide a safe and reliable access for canoes and kayaks below the dam. The section of the Tallapoosa River below Harris is easily the most beautiful part of the entire Tallapoosa (as described by most paddlers who have seen that section of the river). Alabama Power would be providing a huge economic impact to Randolph County and Alabama by improving access to the river below Harris Dam. The current situation is very detrimental to the efforts of the Alabama Scenic River Trail. It is magnificent tourist attraction that is being blocked by Alabama Power neglect.

9243

Another access point between HS Bend and Jay Bird Landing is strongly needed.

9244

Public access is needed especially from Tallassee to Wetumpka.

9245

The river was much better for fishing before put the dam in.

9246

It would be so nice to have public areas to get in and out at

9247

The river is a treasure and more public access points from the dam to Jaybird would add tons of variety to river enthusiasts.

9248

Would like for river to remain at a level that allows for wade fishing.

9251

Would love to see trout below the dam

9252

I enjoy the scenic beauty, abundant fish and wild life and the uncluttered (people, trash) of this part of the Alabama River. Please continue your efforts to maintain & enhance present levels of water quality.

9255

Make Jaybird Landing a nicer boat ramp and get a better public access to Griffin Shoals.

9256

Have adequate trash receptacles at public ramps and access. Add more public access and monitor with cameras to those who pollute.

9258

It's hard to plan recreation on the Tallapoosa River. We never know what the water levels will be. We never know when the dam will be let off - even when we call and get a schedule. They never abide by the schedule they give.

9262

I would love more public access between horseshoe bend and jay bird so there can be better emergency access points and shorter trip options. Specifically around fox creek.

9263

The wide fluctuation of water levels on Lake Harris makes the lake less attractive to those who are true lake enthusiasts. Limiting the drawdown to 4 or 5 feet rather than 8 feet would have a positive effect, not only on recreational activities, but on fish and other aquatic life. Harris is a beautiful lake but the unpredictability of the water level in the fall and spring is a negative for both people and marine life.

9265

3feet and above on the meter at Horseshoe bend makes great recreational kayaking conditions.

9268

The water levels usually are to low to float

9270

Outlaw all of the "wakeboard" boats..they destroy everything. If a law can be produced to stop cruisers, so can these destructive vessels

9272

You never know when when Alabama Power is releasing water. You can't ask me to check the Tallapoosa River USGS water level gauges or Alabama Power generation schedule when there is not adequate cell phone reception on the River. If the water level is down and small children are enjoying the water it like the flood gates have been released when they let the water out at the dam. You better be careful or you will have a drowning on your hands. Better communication and/or a regular scheduled is must needed. With constant rising and lowering of the water level it is eroding the banks

away much faster than before the dam as well as flooding of properties along the bank. It appears that the dam is for the ellite that have built above the dam so they can have consist water level while the people/property owners below the dam are eroding and getting washed away. Give us a break!!! I'm sure that the sediment from the banks is staring to pile up down stream. Lets keep ALL of Alabama beautiful!!!

9273

Check to see there is good canoe access at Germany Ferry. Thank you APCo for advocating for recreation on the Tallapoosa. Also please advocate for mandatory BMP's along the tributaries, especially regarding poultry farming and processing wastes in the watershed.

9274

Need more walking/hiking trails and family recreational areas. There are many recreation and tourism opportunities along the river. For East Alabama. Trends show there is a demand for outdoor recreation and economic boom for such areas.

9275

Yes, please ensure the water level in winter is increased by about 4 feet. That would make the lake more beautiful year round. It would also provide homeowners more water where the water is lower. Also provide some means of dredging where the water circulates and creates sandbars. Numerous sandbars upstream on the Big T seem to be growing. The lake seems to be getting shallower since 2010 around mile marker 20 on the Big T.

9279

More public access ramps needed and day camp areas

9280

Fluctuations in water levels is unacceptable. Up and down multiple times a day is ruining the river and it's banks. It's dangerous to humans and life in and on the river. At least what's left of it. There is no reason for the way the dam is managed. Totally unacceptable. A once pure and beautiful waterway is being ruined beyond recognition and repair in favor of things and people above the dam. If not for the river, there would be no lake.

9281

This is a PUBLIC river, not just a private river for Alabama Power. Provide a minimum constant flow, especially during warm recreation months. Stop the flushing cycles just to meet power demands. Alabama Power tries WAY too hard at justifying its needs of river power and ignores responsible stewardship of our natural rivers.

9282

Above the dam I would like to see public accessible beach areas. I would like for Al power to allow some of their property to be turned into mountain biking trails.

9283

It was better before the dam ever existed. Much less flooding and the streams were beautiful. Now the streams are filthy and full of snails

9285

Needs more public areas for everyone to use. There are a vast amount of people that come to enjoy the river and not nearly enough public access points. Areas for public fishing & camping, areas for picnics all with public restroom buildings would be great additions

9287

I believe recreation and fishing would be greatly enhanced with 4 foot draw-down in Winter months. This would help with fish spawn cycles for most species and allow greater access for recreation. Thanks.

9288

A beautiful river with wonderful habitat, beautiful Cahaba Lilies, Eagles, blue herons and other wildlife

9289

The water when not pulsing, smells of stagnation. The water temperatures are not natural, nor is the flow. The bank erosion is tremendously bad. The natural habitat and natural animal life and bug life is non existent.

APPENDIX C

OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS TO "IS THERE ANYTHING IN GENERAL YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH ALABAMA POWER REGARDING THE R.L. HARRIS DAM RELICENSING PROCESS OR TALLAPOOSA RIVER?"

9002

My family enjoys the lake very much and would enjoy more if level remained at higher points for longer periods

9005

Water levels below the dam should be monitored closer especially during heavy rains and should be monitored better during recreation periods to ensure safety for downstream water activities that would cause safety concerns for abrupt, sudden water level rising rapidly.

9006

I am a homeowner on the river and I would like to see the water levels kept at a higher level during the winter months. I believe this would also benefit wildlife and any aquatic animals.

9007

Alabama Power needs to consider the property owners below the dam too. Alabama Power could do more to help control the water flow and the danger of the water flow and removing our banks. We let Alabama Power decide how we can enjoy our properties and when and if we can come and enjoy by what they decide on water flow. It is really not fair to the owners of property below the dam.

9008

Please make sure there are adequate flows for aquatic habitat and aquatic fauna, and for river recreation.

9018

Winter level too low.

9023

More public assess at Malone and Wadley

9024

I would love to see some type of regulation on wake boats. I believe they are creating damage to both the shoreline and private property

9026

We love the lake. Keep the water levels of this beautiful lake as they currently are so cities won’t be draining our water off

9028

Please consider downstream interests.

9030

Fix yourselves. If you need help, we're here to guide you to a better answer.

9031

Flooding is a major issue downstream and management of the dam needs to seriously improve.

9032

Save the camp sites!

9039

Surely with all the weather information today a plan could be made to leave water level up. If lots of rain is forecast then drop level in advance to prevent flooding . Otherwise leave level up . I think dropping level for winter only 4’ would be nice.

9042

8' is too MUCH to lower the levels - the rains just erode away the banks and stain the water. Most ramps are inaccessible and docks unusable. Maintain levels higher in the winter month to allow MORE access!

9044

Thank you for considering a shorter winter pool for lake use. Thank you all that you do to keep our lake clean and balanced.

9045

Need more accessible places to get in and out of the river with canoes and small boats

9048

raise the winter pool for 3-4 years at a time so there is more water at docks longer for boating time

9049

Is it true that the winter pool lever will be raised to 789 instead of 785?

9052

Please don’t continue to drop levels as low and don’t start dropping until winter. (shorter the winter pool time)

9053

Please raise the winter lake levels.

9054

Lighted bike/walking path from Cragford Road along Harris Dam Rd to the dam. The grassy area at the Harris Dam sign at intersection of Cragford Rd and Harris Dam Rd is constantly being abused by 4wd trucks and atvs so pave it, make it a start point for exercise activity.

9055

Please keep the water level higher in the Winter.

9057

I think the summer full pool level is about 6” too high. We have a fixed dock and in the past few years, the structure has been in the water. It use to be about 6” above summer full pool. I believe the summer full pool is higher than a few years ago.

9059

Keep lake level same Year round

9062

1. Please keep summer pool levels from April through November. 2. Please raise winter pool levels.

9064

I would like to see the winter pool elevations raised about 4-5 feet.

9065

Appreciate the clarity and transparency on the relicensing website.

9070

would like to see the winter water level higher

9072

Would like to see the winter pool level higher so all have year round water.

9073

Same as my answer to 19

9074

Would like to see winter pool level either 5 or 6 feet below summer, rather than 8 feet

9075

Just winter pool changing to 788

9077

PLEASE THINK OF THE PEOPLE AND PROPERTY DOWN RIVER WHEN HEAVY RAIN FALLS AND WHILE GENERATING! Especially in the summer time when it’s a very popular kayaking, fishing, and swimming river due to clean water but it’s hard to tell about river levels at time due to service and inaccurate release dates and times

9080

It is the feeling that it’s more important to keep the “lake folks happy” because the pool levels and release rates are based on what they want/need. Definitely needs to be a change in order to preserve the Tallapoosa river. Flow rates and release schedules need to be managed better

9081

PLEASE THINK OF THE LAND OWNERS DOWN RIVER!

9082

There needs to be more regulations on when and how much water is released as it is causing massive amounts of flooding and erosion to the land.

9083

Keep lake Wedowee at full pool year round

9084

I am pleased with the way Alabama Power is keeping us informed with the relicensing project.

9085

Same answer as #19....

9088

Thank you for asking for input.

9094

It would be nice if we could get assistance with cleaning up trees that end up in the coves.

9097

Please raise the winter lake level. 8 feet is too big of drop. Thank you.

9098

I would think long and hard to ensure the beauty and wildlife it provides and quality of water resources

9099

Leave the water level up longer in the fall, please.

9103

Would like winter pool period reduced to Dec thru Feb.

9105

Please only drop the water level 5 feet, instead of 8 feet!

9114

I do not know how to answer the question about the best hours to use the river. so my message wont be able to submit.

9116

My self an family where fishing at the dam on the Pier this summer 2019 in july . There were green algae all over the top of the water. There a lot of fish all different kinds of fish bream ,bass, catfish ,strip, crap where float on top of the water dead. Yes i know it was fish not trash. The water had very bad smell . I told my family we something is wrong an we stay there for bout 2.5 hours hoping the water would generate to wash it away from where we were fishing. I told my family we would not keep any of the fish if we caught any due to the smell an all dead fish floating around. We never did catch anything. That was about last time we were back down there fishing from the dam peir at RL HAIRRS . I lived here in Randolph County all my life I'm 36 years old. I love the river we have campers bout 3 miles below the dam. I love taking my family outdoors to enjoy the river. We can't afford a boat to put on Lake an it is very unsafe the way GA people act an drive on the lake in boats an etc. My kids are getting into fishing the older they have gotten. I can see the difference in fish from 20 years ago. There is nothing like it was when I was 10 years old . The river is more now just a drain for the lake for the for all the people who live on lake. Every one has forgotten about us down river. So please remember us too Alabama Power.

9117

Allow more water through the dam in the summer for the river

9118

Please allow more water below the dam in the summer

9119

Need more water through. And learn how to regulate the so flood gates don’t have to open and wash away peoples property below the dam.

9121

Would love to see more patrolling of waters where there should be no wakes. A lot of boats running way too close to docks and causing damage. Boats come in at full throttle to our cove and go out just as fast. Our cove is less than 100ft. wide.

9128

This entire survey is based on the assumption that there is sufficient water to navigate the river. Presently, it's either too low or too high; nothing near a natural flow. Questions are worded in a way that paints a pretty picture of the water flow, when in reality, it's damn near impossible to fish, float, or fart in the water if the water doesn't exist in sufficient quantity. On the flip side of this, when a turbine is running, there's too much water. I've been trapped after almost losing 10 kids; they barely got to shore (4 held onto my sons kayak while he paddled them to shore). Yes, we checked the dam gen schedule and it was going to be a typical pulse but ended up w both turbines running. For crying out loud, spend the money and install smaller turbines that can produce power without a 6000cfs requirement/unit. Little electric cars and their green drivers will love you for it.

9133

Above the dam needs to have areas designated for large boats and boats that create extreme waves for surfing and other water sports. I have an 18ft fiberglass fishing boat and have nearly been capsized by waves from boats several times.

9137

More public access

9140

You guys do a good job but you can't please them all.

9145

The downstream flood control Alabama power claimed would be a benefit from the dam is not evident. The control of flow released form dam appears to benefit lake property owners and power generation. To the detriment of down stream users and property owners.

9146

1. Help with erosion control 2. More constant water temperature 3. Maintain some type of constant flow 4. A better type of alert for generation 5. Help from parks and wildlife to bring back aquatic life and organisms 6. Come down and spend some time on the river and i promise you that you will love it as much as we do!! 7. 100% different than the lake life, trust me I've done both and the river wins hands down!! 8. Thanks for you concerns and I hope we all can make things better for one of Alabama's most beautiful rivers!!

9150

Its There so lets make it better for everyone

9152

Alabama Power does a great job at maintaining the river.

9156

Either put in a constant flow turbine. Or build a cofferdam below Wadley.either that or put that nuclear plant that was original slated for the reason if the lake in the first. The lake wasn't built for flood control that is a corporate farce.

9158

The unit you turn loose is nice ads about 3" to 4" of water when it is down but the turbans are more than anybody can handle

9159

Just please make it accessible for all to enjoy! Flat Rock is not safe for everyone that doesn't own a home on the lake, or those who can't go out on boats & pwc's!

9160

Need to improve on the moral around tallapoosa river!

9161

Please restock all catfish thanks

9165

There is no public access from Harris dam to Malone bridge. I would like to see a public access for Crooked creek, just below Harris dam. That would provide a take out for Crooked creek and a put in for the Tallapoosa.

9167

Keep a minimal flow of water all the time

9170

Renew it

9172

I am disappointed with the relicensing process thus far. It has not created the opportunity for dialogue and discussion that is needed. We need analysis of how to change dam design (mostly water intake) and operations as temperature impacts are a significant problem and have been made worse by the 2005 changes in dam operations. We then need to engage as stakeholders with this information to discuss alternative dam operations that balance hydropower and other management objectives. I do not believe that this survey is well designed to illicit helpful information.

9179

Keep minimum flow rates in river

9190

When there is heavy rainfall (like now) that the river is not flooded in order to keep the Lake levels at winter pool. Lake Martin is less than one foot below summer pool and running all four generators. The river levels are extremely high and dangerous right now.

9191

I would like to see a secondary dam to regulate the flow in order to compensate for generation schedules. Failing that, perhaps the turbines could be replaced with newer technology that does not require full releases in order to produce electricity. Generating electricity should not require releases that result in bank erosion the way that the current technology requires.

9195

Would like to control the flooding below the dam..is washing our land away...

9196

Please fix the dam/turbines so that the flow downstream is more natural.

9198

Thanks for taking the time to survey property owners, residents, and those who share the river with us.

9200

They don't show any concern for residents downstram of the dam.

9201

Control the release of water to better avoid more land loss along the river below the dam .

9202

It can improve

9207

The dam is not doing any good down stream in fact it has been over run with weeds since the dam. Every spring the water at least gets into sheds or homes still.

9208

Benefits of hydroelectric production should weigh into environmental impact of Ala. Power on the river.

9209

I know very little about these things. I understand that I can see current water levels on the website but I would like to be more informed about generation schedules, why decisions are made to operate the dam in certain ways, and perhaps links to research that support those decisions. In general, and because that river affects so many lives, I would like to see a system for day to day accountability to the public and landowners along the river

9211

I've said it all in the previous comments! The dam at weedowee had had a dramatic and negative effect on the environment and the downstream land owners..... all in the name of energy. But in truth, all in the name of money!!!!! Pay more attention to the effects on the environment and the property owners down stream!!!!! Please!!!

9214

We need to do something about the cold water coming from Harris into the river.

9221

I am concerned Atlanta area will continue to try to increase withdrawals of water along the Tallapoosa.

9233

Please dont spoil one of this areas most beautiful resources

9234

This data may be skewed because the majority of recreation is as far down stream from Harris as you can go (HB to JB) where rise and fall is not as dramatic so the majority of responses will say it's not an issue and water levels are great.

9235

It is a valuable resource to many downstream of the dam. Please keep it that way.

9240

Fly fishing for the red eye bass on the Tallapoosa is some of the best fly fishing in the southeast. The red eye bass is a unique fish found only in the waters of the Tallapoosa. The blooming lilies are a sight all should be able to see!!

9242

Please make The Tallapoosa River more accessible below Harris Dam. It would be a huge Economic Development resource for Randolph County and the State of Alabama.

9245

Please if you say one gate don't release 2, just keep in mind people travel long distance to fish and have fun. Sucks when you drive 100 miles only to find you can't anchor in river because instead of 1 gate your releasing 2 and more time than you state. We understand that all are subject to change but have driven 100 miles many times and find river running to fast can't anchor. Then just turn around and have to drive back home. Thanks

9255

We need mile markers on the Tallapoosa below RL Harris to Jaybird.

9257

Recreation is a vital function of our rivers and streams. Those who recreate are essential stakeholders and our opinions should be respected.

9258

Something needs to be done about the erosion of the banks. I have pictures showing where banks have washed out and there are "tunnels" in banks. We had a fence around our picnic area - a fence that used to be at least 5 feet or more from the bank. In one area the ground that fence was in has now washed away and it's getting closer to the picnic tables. Our picnic tables used to be a long way from the banks, but not anymore. The "old backwoods folks" warned this would happen if the dam was put in Wedowee but no one listened. They swore it wouldn't happen and thought we were a bunch of backwoods country hicks. We are now paying taxes on land that is not even there anymore.

9265

A fish ladder on all the dams would be great.

9267

Matching the water temperature in the released water with those of downstream running waters. Reduce peaks and be more gradual in rising water

9270

The pollution released to lake martin is unacceptable

9272

Repeat of #19. Please take the time to listen to all of the survey results. You never know when when Alabama Power is releasing water. You can't ask me to check the Tallapoosa River USGS water level gauges or Alabama Power generation schedule when there is not adequate cell phone reception on the River. If the water level is down and small children are enjoying the water it like the flood gates have been released when they let the water out at the dam. You better be careful or you will have a drowning on your hands. Better communication and/or a regular scheduled is must needed. With constant rising and lowering of the water level it is eroding the banks away much faster than before the dam as well as flooding of properties along the bank. It appears that the dam is for the elite that have built above the dam so they can have consist water level while the people/property owners below the dam are eroding and getting washed away. Give us a break!!! I'm sure that the sediment from the banks is staring to pile up down stream. Lets keep ALL of Alabama beautiful!!!

9273

Thanks for facilitating stakeholders involvement. APCo is a good “big brother” around here.

9275

Please strive to keep the lake heathly. There is a farmer on the Big T upstream of Lee's Bridge whose farm gets flooded. That wreaks havoc on the lake in February and March with extra heavy rains. We have heard the nitrogen level is growing in this area decreasing fish poputaltion.

9277

I do know wadley dumps their sewage in the river. That needs to be stopped

9279

See item 19.

9280

Stop the irresponsible management of the river. It's dangerous to human life.

9281

Frequently the are Re licensing statements about people under-responding to surveys, etc. Look more deeply at the responses you ARE getting because they speak for many folks who don't know how or where to respond.

9286

Question 6 presumes the entire public uses the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam

9287

Again, I hope you will decrease the Winter draw-down to somewhere between 3 to 5 feet at most. I believe this would encourage more retirees like us to retire on the lake and thereby enhance the local economy and infrastructure. Thank You,

9288

I am concerned about the number of public access points for four wheelers. They trash the shoreline and in some locations ride 4 wheelers in the riverbed

9289

Alabama Power needs to accept responsibility for the destruction of 50 miles of river and for the damage to property below Harris Dam. There is a fine balance between the lake and the river below and APCO needs to strive to do the right thing and modify the dam for a full flow turbine that will flow natural water temperatures year round.

APPENDIX I

MAN-DAYS HUNTED AND HARVEST ESTIMATES USED IN ALABAMA HUNTING

Alabama Power compiled information from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) received on August 12 and 22, 2019 regarding the Skyline Wildlife Management Area use data and Man-Days Hunted and Harvest Estimates Used in Alabama Hunting Summaries for the following report. In addition, per request of the ADCNR, Alabama Power added a map of the James D. Martin-Skyline Wildlife Management Area.

MAN-DAYS HUNTED AND HARVEST ESTIMATES USED IN ALABAMA HUNTING SUMMARIES

Prepared By:

Steve Bryant, WMA Game Harvest Project Leader

MAN-DAYS HUNTED AND HARVEST ESTIMATES USED IN ALABAMA HUNTING SUMMARIES

STEVE BRYANT, WMA GAME HARVEST PROJECT LEADER

Questions occasionally arise requesting how information for the Alabama Statewide Game Harvest Report or the Alabama WMA Game Harvest Report are derived. These numbers are deduced in a variety of ways.

Both reports are attempting to measure the parameters of hunting activity commonly called pressure and the number of animals harvested. Hunting pressure is measured in man-days, any hunting activity for any length of time is considered a man-day. For animals with a bag limit of one per day it is possible to limit out within minutes of initiating a hunt, this is a rare occurrence. Hunting activity typically coincides with expected peak game movement times or other parameters which would improve the odds of success for a hunter. These times are typically early morning and late afternoon. Observation for decades has confirmed that hunting activity follows patterns. Deer, Turkey, Waterfowl are normally hunted sunrise to mid-morning, another peak period occurs in the afternoon from mid-afternoon to sundown. If you hunt both periods it is still considered one man-day. Small game hunting is usually a bit more leisurely with hunting early morning around 7:00AM to noon, and a second period mid-afternoon to sundown. Any variation of these time frames is considered a man-day of pressure.

For the Statewide Game Harvest Survey, a specified number (the sample) of license buyers are randomly selected and contacted after the hunting season to ask them questions regarding their hunting activities and harvest. These numbers are then expanded to the total number of licenses sold to arrive at estimates for total man-days used for pursuing a given species and the total harvest for that species.

The WMA Harvest Report is not as statistically oriented. It relies primarily on information gathered by the employees on a WMA at a check station, making vehicle counts during hunting time, and during their other routine work activities to make incidental observations to collect raw data with which to make a season estimate. Using incidental observation is particularly true for

small game species that have long open seasons and are widely dispersed such as rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, pig, and other species that are highly adaptive and not dependent on a restricted habitat. For these species employees should make notes on activity observed and if possible, talk to the hunters to get the numbers on days hunted and their success rate. In many cases all that is needed is to observe where a vehicle is parked to know what they are hunting. A vehicle parked adjoining mature hardwoods if a deer hunt is not in progress likely indicates a squirrel hunter. In some cases, the employee would look in the windows of a vehicle and get other clues such as gun case, bow case, ammunition etc. to arrive at a conclusion on what species is being hunted. In some instances, employees talk with hunters when they are not hunting to ask how many days they hunted this year and about their harvest. This information is provided to the WMA biologist who will assess the information and make the man-day and harvest estimate.

For species that are found in a relatively confined area such as waterfowl or dove. The local WMA biologist and their staff can check these locations to interview hunters and look at the actual game taken. For dove it is relatively easy because they are only hunted extensively during the beginning of the season, primarily during the early weeks of September. The data collector will ride around the field count the number of vehicles then set up at an exit point. As each vehicle exits information is collected on number of hunters in vehicle and the harvest. That information is expanded to the number of vehicles that did not pass through the exit point where data is being collected. In this situation you can get very specific regarding the harvest and count hatching year dove and adult dove.

Data collection from waterfowl hunters is the most comprehensive of all. It is a long season, 60 days. However, the hunters can be easily accessed by going to the locations where they are concentrated, boat ramps, here data is collected on number of hours hunted and harvest by species, mallard, gadwall, etc. These check points are operated during the peak hunting times, primarily weekends, morning, and evening. A significant amount of data is collected over the course of the season and is expanded to cover the days when data was not collected but possibly some vehicle counts were made. In the final analysis you will have a good estimate of the average number of hours of a hunt, average number of birds taken per hunt, hours/duck, and the species composition for the season. This information is reported to the U S Fish & Wildlife Service and is incorporated in the discussions for the setting of the following season along with many other factors.

Deer hunter man-days and harvest was historically easy to collect and very accurate. This was during the period when daily permits were issued for each hunt day and the hunters felt compelled to bring their harvest by a check station operated by conservation personnel to provide biological data from each deer harvested. This would include gender, age, antler points, antler measurements, and general body condition. Data from that period is very accurate. However, because deer hunt dates are set up almost a full year in advance of when the hunt happens environmental conditions can drastically affect participation and therefore harvest. This resulted in many unproductive days operating check stations. Slowly during the 21st century many if not all of Alabama's WMAs shifted to the season map permit. This had an advantage for both the hunter and the WMA staff, primarily being everyone did not have to get up at 3:00AM to issue and receive the daily permit. However, an unexpected result happened when the wildlife section shifted to the map permit. The hunters interpreted this as deer managers not being interested in biological data from deer that was collected at the former check stations under the daily permit system. Even though the check stations were being operated and regulations state all deer harvested must be submitted at a check station for biological data collection, the deer being turned in declined significantly. This had led to another attempt by the wildlife section to improve data collection for all species and will be discussed later in this paper. In order to gain insight into deer hunting man-days under the season map permit era employees make vehicle counts of hunters on the area on the way to operate the check stations when a deer gun hunt is in progress. These vehicle counts are used to estimate hunting pressure. The procedure and computations used were developed by Chris Cook, Alabama Deer Project Leader. Archery deer hunting pressure is obtained by the incidental observation method and harvest is provided primarily by the hunters. Information stations are provided at key access points where archery hunters can record their harvest data. Small game hunters can also utilize these information stations, but their cooperation has traditionally not been proactive. Fortunately, or unfortunately depending on your view point, the gun deer hunters have provided some partial data at these locations also. From the deer managers point of view yes, the hunter provided some information, we know a deer was harvested, but we did not get all the biological information we need such as a jawbone to determine age, so that the age structure of the female and male segments of the population can be assessed.

Turkey hunting man-days and harvest has always been by incidental observation and the hunter using the information stations to record their harvest. In general turkey hunters are more

cooperative about providing harvest information. Another method that is providing information to biologist is Facebook. This can provide insight into both data reported at the WMA and what is not reported.

Game harvest and hunting pressure estimates is both an art and science and depends on the diligence of both the hunters utilizing an area and the employees who work there. Negligence on anyone's part results in lost data and diminished opportunity to better manage the species which we all enjoy.

A new era is being implemented by the wildlife section that has the potential to benefit greatly the species we manage and the hunters who enjoy them. The Daily Permit System will be mandatory for everyone hunting any species in Wildlife Section District II during the 2019-2020 season and beyond. Under this system, Daily Permits are provided at many convenient access points to all D-2 WMA's. Hunters are required to get a permit, complete an entry section, tear off that part of it and deposit in a lockbox when they enter the WMA and report on the remaining section the results of their hunt for the day also deposited in the lockbox. There will be self help instructions on collection of the biological data if the check stations are closed. Check stations will still be operated on peak use days, but we do expect to gain a better understanding of hunting activity and harvest for all species using the Daily Permits because theoretically we should get 100% data. Of course, no one in the wildlife section is naive enough to believe we will get perfect cooperation, but we do expect to have a baseline of data better than ever before. If further explanation is needed contact me at Steve.Bryant@dcnr.alabama.gov or (256) 435-5422.

TABLE 1 MAN-DAYS HUNTED AND HARVEST ESTIMATES USED IN ALABAMA HUNTING

JAMES D. MARTIN - SKYLINE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
HUNTING DATA
2016-17 SEASON THROUGH 2018-19 SEASON

2016-2017 SEASON

SPECIES	ESTIMATED MAN-DAYS HUNTED	ESTIMATED HARVEST	KNOWN HARVEST
DEER	6270	274	
TURKEY	1865	65	51
SQUIRREL	600	700	
QUAIL	30	16	
RABBIT	550	825	
DOVE	120	130	
WATERFOWL	20	15	
RACCOON	200	10	
OPOSSUM	0	0	
WOODCOCK	18	6	
SNIPE	0	0	
FOX	0	0	
PIG	0	0	
TRAPPING	TN 360	31	
	9673		

2017-2018 SEASON

SPECIES	ESTIMATED MAN-DAYS HUNTED	ESTIMATED HARVEST	KNOWN HARVEST
DEER	6110	229	
TURKEY	1710	60	47
SQUIRREL	600	700	
QUAIL	30	16	
RABBIT	520	745	
DOVE	95	97	
WATERFOWL	0	0	
RACCOON	200	10	
OPOSSUM	0	0	
WOODCOCK	15	4	
SNIPE	0	0	
FOX	0	0	
PIG	0	0	
TRAPPING	0	0	
	9280		

2018-2019 SEASON

SPECIES	ESTIMATED MAN-DAYS HUNTED	ESTIMATED HARVEST	KNOWN HARVEST
DEER	8003	225	
TURKEY	700	75	63
SQUIRREL	580	600	
QUAIL	30	15	
RABBIT	500	420	
DOVE	75	80	
WATERFOWL	30	30	
RACCOON	15	15	
OPOSSUM	0	0	
WOODCOCK	0	0	
SNIPE	0	0	
FOX	0	0	
PIG	0	0	
TRAPPING	0	0	
	9933		

TABLE 2 DEER HARVEST ON ALABAMA'S WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, 2018-19 SEASON

AREA	HUNTING SEASON	GUN STALK HUNTS		GUN DOG HUNTS		ARCHERY		PRIMITIVE WEAPONS		TOTAL	
		HARVEST	MAN-DAYS	HARVEST	MAN-DAYS	HARVEST	MAN-DAYS	HARVEST	MAN-DAYS	HARVEST	MAN-DAYS
James D. Martin-Skyline WMA	2012-13	300	4319			47	1140	35	283	382	5742
	2013-14	352	7305			75	1505	4	145	431	8955
	2014-15	338	6316			47	1300	24	535	409	8151
	2015-16	239	5625			33	1070	26	680	298	7375
	2016-17	201	4750			34	1150	39	820	274	6720
	2017-18	187	4820			23	690	19	600	229	6110
	2018-19	198	6943			27	805	0	255	225	8003
Forever Wild Land Trust-Alabama Power PDHA	2014-15	7	73							7	73
	2015-16	8	75							8	75
	2016-17	2	68							2	68
	2017-18	5	92							5	92
	2018-19	3	50							3	50

ATTACHMENTS

2019-20 DRAFT DEER/SMALL GAME/TURKEY DAILY PERMIT
2019-20 DRAFT WATERFOWL / DEER/SMALL GAME DAILY PERMIT

2019-20 DRAFT DEER/SMALL GAME/TURKEY DAILY PERMIT

CHECK IN

SPECIES HUNTED (Circle as many as apply)

Deer	Woodcock	Waterfowl	Hog
Turkey	Gallinule	Squirrel	OTHER:
Dove	Rail	Rabbit	_____
Quail	Snipe	Raccoon	_____

Hunt Date: _____ **Telephone #**_____

Print Name:_____

County of Residence:_____ **State of Residence:**_____

CHECK OUT

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA DAILY PERMIT

#00001

Check out portion **must be carried by each user** while on the WMA. Check out portion **MUST** be completed and put in permit box at the conclusion of the holder's activity within WMA.

Print Name: _____

Hunt (TIME IN):_____ **(TIME OUT):**_____

Telephone #_____

FIRST TIME TO HUNT A WMA? YES ☐ NO ☐

Report your deer or turkey harvest within 48 hours and record your Confirmation # on your harvest record.

GAME CHECK OUTDOOR ALABAMA

HELP STOP POACHING BY CALLING OPERATION GAMEWATCH (800) 272-4263

WILDLIFE RESTORATION

**Hunters must complete the hunt report on the back of this permit.*

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA DAILY PERMIT

#00001

Check in portion **MUST** be completed and put in permit box **BEFORE** engaging in any activity on the WMA.

WMA DAILY PERMIT • HUNT REPORT

Check out portion must be carried by each user while on the WMA. This hunt report **MUST** be completed and put in permit box at the conclusion of the holder's activity within the WMA.

DEER HARVESTED (Circle): **ANTLERED / ANTLERLESS**
Male or Female

Chest Girth _____ # of Points _____ Inside Spread ____
Main Beam Length Left ____ Main Beam Length Right ____
Beam Cir. (above burr) Left ____ Beam Cir. Right ____

Method (Circle): Gun Primitive Weapon Archery

SPECIES HUNTED (Circle as many as apply)

Deer	Woodcock	Waterfowl	Hog
Turkey	Gallinule	Squirrel	OTHER:
Dove	Rail	Rabbit	_____
Quail	Snipe	Raccoon	_____

NUMBER HARVESTED

(Enter 0 if you hunted a species and none were bagged)

DEER _____	WOODCOCK _____	RACCOON _____
SQUIRRELS _____	GALLINULE _____	HOGS _____
RABBITS _____	RAIL _____	OPOSSUM _____
DOVES _____	SNIPE _____	
QUAIL _____	WATERFOWL _____	

TURKEY HARVESTED: Y or N
Spur Length: R _____ L _____ Beard Length _____
Other Species/Comments: _____

Hunters: Complete information on both sides of check out portion of the permit. Failure to comply with WMA regulations is a Class C Misdemeanor and subject to fines up to $500 for first offense.

2019-20 DRAFT WATERFOWL / DEER/SMALL GAME DAILY PERMIT

CHECK IN

WMA DAILY PERMIT

Failure to comply with WMA regulations is a Class 3 misdemeanor and subject to fines up to $500 for first offense.

#00002

Hunt Date: _____ **Telephone #**_____

Print Name:_____

County of Residence:_____ **State of Residence:**_____

CHECK OUT

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA DAILY PERMIT

#00002

Check out portion **must be carried by each user** while on the WMA. Check out portion **MUST** be completed and put in permit box at the conclusion of the holder's activity within WMA.

Print Name: _____

Hunt (TIME IN):_____ **(TIME OUT):**_____

Telephone #_____

FIRST TIME TO HUNT A WMA? YES ☐ NO ☐

SPECIES HUNTED (Circle as many as apply)

Deer	Woodcock	Waterfowl	Hog
Turkey	Gallinule	Squirrel	OTHER:
Dove	Rail	Rabbit	_____
Quail	Snipe	Raccoon	_____

Report your deer or turkey harvest within 48 hours and record your Confirmation # on your harvest record.

***Hunters must complete the hunt report on the back of this permit.**

HELP STOP POACHING BY CALLING
OPERATION GAMEWATCH (800) 272-4263

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA DAILY PERMIT

Check in portion **MUST** be completed and put in permit box **BEFORE** engaging in any activity on the WMA.

WMA DAILY PERMIT • HUNT REPORT

Check out portion must be carried by each user while on the WMA. This hunt report **MUST** be completed and put in permit box at the conclusion of the holder's activity within the WMA.

NUMBER HARVESTED

(Enter 0 if you hunted a species and none were bagged)

BLACK DUCK _____	SCAUP _____	GALLINULE _____
BUFFLEHEAD _____	SCOTER _____	RAIL _____
CANVASBACK _____	G.W TEAL _____	SNIPE _____
GADWALL _____	B.W. TEAL _____	WOODCOCK _____
GOLDENEYE _____	WIGEON _____	FOX SQUIRREL _____
H. MERGANSER _____	WOOD DUCK _____	GRAY SQUIRREL _____
MALLARD _____	CANADA GOOSE _____	RABBITS _____
MOTTLED _____	SNOW GOOSE _____	RACCOON _____
PINTAIL _____	WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE _____	OPOSSUM _____
REDHEAD _____	COOT _____	FOX _____
RINGNECK _____	DOVES _____	BOBCAT _____
RUDDY _____	QUAIL _____	HOGS _____
SHOVELER _____		

DEER HARVESTED (Circle): **ANTLERED / ANTLERLESS**
MALE or FEMALE

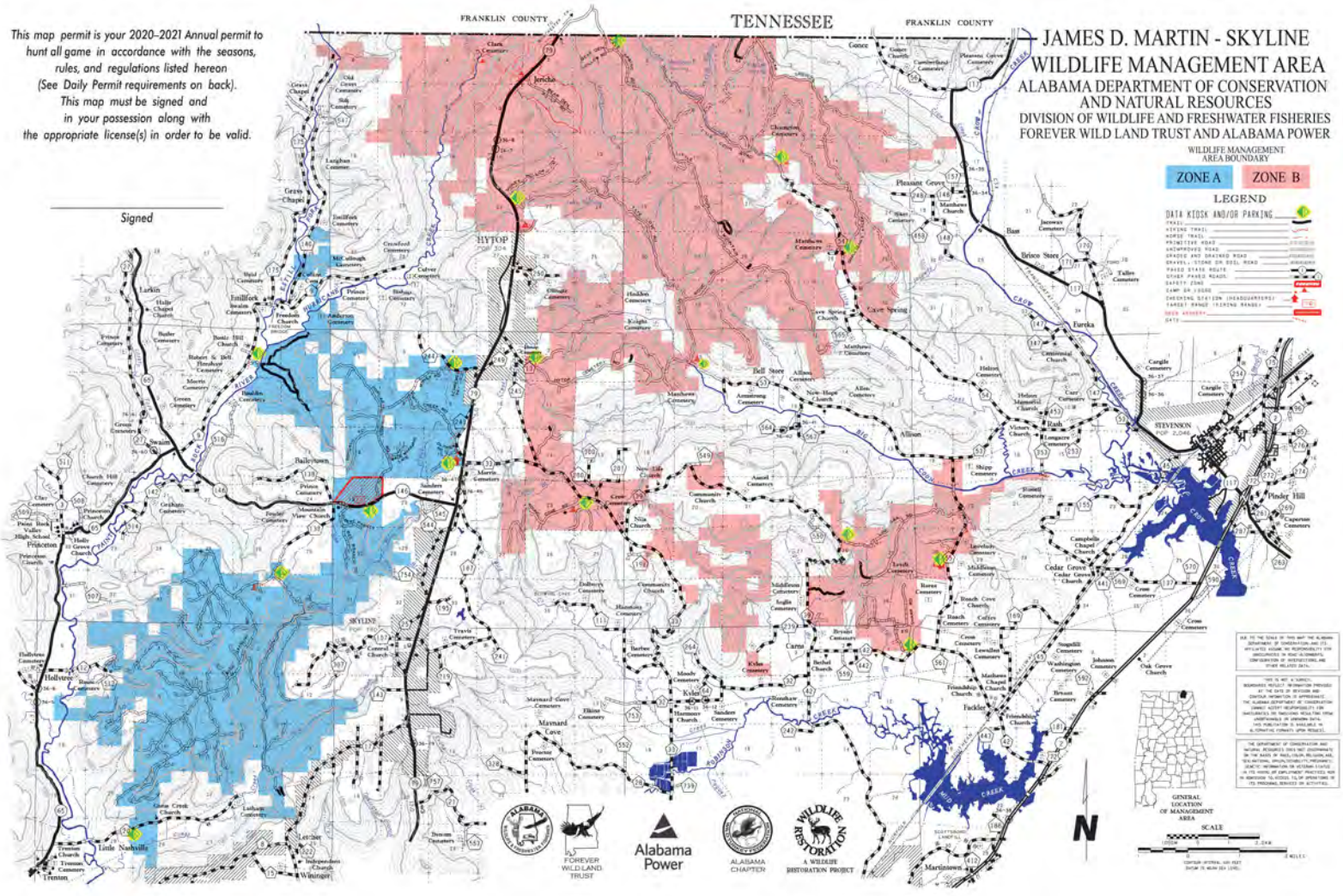
Chest Girth _____ # of Points _____ Inside Spread _____
Main Beam Length Left _____ Main Beam Length Right _____
Beam Cir. (above burr) Left _____ Beam Cir. Right _____
Method (Circle): Gun Primitive Weapon Archery

Hunters: Complete information on both sides of check out portion of the permit. Failure to comply with WMA regulations is a Class C Misdemeanor and subject to fines up to $500 for first offense.

MAP OF THE JAMES D. MARTIN- SKYLINE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

This map permit is your 2020–2021 Annual permit to hunt all game in accordance with the seasons, rules, and regulations listed hereon (See Daily Permit requirements on back). This map must be signed and in your possession along with the appropriate license(s) in order to be valid.

Signed



APPENDIX J

TALLAPOOSA RIVER LANDOWNER SURVEY RESEARCH PLAN

Alabama Power

600 North 18th Street
Hydro Services 16N-8180
Birmingham, AL 35203
205 257 2251 tel
arsegars@southernco.com

December 19, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Project No. 2628-065
R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project
Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey Research Plan

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street N.
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Secretary Bose,

Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power) is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensee for the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (Harris Project) (FERC No. 2628). On March 13, 2019, Alabama Power filed 10 study plans for FERC approval as part of the Integrated Licensing Process for the Harris Project. In its April 12, 2019 Study Plan Determination for the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) notes that Alabama Power "may choose to conduct any study not specifically required herein that it feels would add pertinent information to the record."

As Alabama Power gathered information on recreation use of the Tallapoosa River downstream of the Harris Project as outlined in the Recreation Evaluation Study Plan, researchers noted a lack of information from downstream landowners. In order to supplement data collected at public recreation sites on the Tallapoosa River downstream of the Project, Alabama Power plans to survey downstream landowners regarding river-related recreation. The survey, along with details on the survey area, research goals and objectives, and research plan are presented in the Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey Research Plan (attached).

In order to provide stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the survey, Alabama Power hosted a Harris Action Team (HAT) 5 meeting on December 11, 2019. At this meeting, Alabama Power received several comments on the timing and intent of the survey. Meeting notes are attached to the Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey Research Plan. Alabama Power also received written comments from Martha Hunter (Alabama Rivers Alliance) and Donna Matthews (stakeholder). In response to the comments received, Alabama Power has revised the plan to include a paper survey option and is also developing an anonymous internet survey for river users to express opinions regarding their recreation experience on the Tallapoosa River. The anonymous survey will be in addition to the Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey and data will be analyzed separately. Additional details on the anonymous survey will be communicated to HAT 5 members in the coming months.

Finally, to address stakeholder concerns on the timeframe of the Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey, Alabama Power does not plan on distributing the landowner survey until February 2020.

If there are any questions concerning this filing, please contact me at arsegars@southernco.com or 205-257-2251.

Sincerely,



Angie Anderegg
Harris Relicensing Project Manager

Attachment

cc: Harris Action Team 5 Stakeholder List

Attachment
Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey Research Plan

TALLAPOOSA RIVER LANDOWNER SURVEY RESEARCH PLAN

R.L. HARRIS PROJECT
FERC NO. 2628

Prepared for:

Alabama Power Company
Birmingham, Alabama

Prepared by:

Kleinschmidt

December 2019

TALLAPOOSA RIVER LANDOWNER SURVEY RESEARCH PLAN
R.L. HARRIS PROJECT
FERC NO. 2628

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TALLAPOOSA RIVER LANDOWNER SURVEY RESEARCH PLAN
R.L. HARRIS PROJECT
FERC NO. 2628

1.0 PURPOSE

In its April 12, 2019 Study Plan Determination for the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) notes that "Alabama Power may choose to conduct any study not specifically required herein that it feels would add pertinent information to the record." As Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power) gathered information on recreation use of the Tallapoosa River downstream of the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2628) (Project), researchers noted a lack of information from downstream landowners. In order to supplement data collected at public recreation sites on the Tallapoosa River downstream of the Project, Alabama Power plans to survey downstream landowners regarding river-related recreation.

2.0 STUDY AREA

For purposes of this proposal, a downstream landowner is defined as one owning residential, vacation, agricultural, or vacant land beginning at the R.L. Harris Dam (Harris Dam) in Randolph County, Alabama traveling southward through Chambers County, and then into Tallapoosa County until the river reaches Lake Martin near the Jaybird Landing Boat Ramp maintained by Alabama Power (Hunt 2019).

3.0 RESEARCH GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of the study is to determine how landowners in Randolph, Chambers, and Tallapoosa County, Alabama (who own property along the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam) use it for recreational purposes, and how instream flow affects their recreational activity and satisfaction in the study area. To achieve this goal, the four objectives are to:

1) Identify downstream landowners and obtain their mailing address.
2) Develop a survey instrument that will collect information from downstream landowners on their recreational use of the Tallapoosa River, use by others they may provide access to on their property, landowner perception of instream flow, and their attitudes about

recreation and other resource issues on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing Boat Ramp.

3) Send landowners an introductory pre-survey letter via first-class mail in February 2020 informing them of the study, followed one week later with a first-class mailing with a request to participate in study. This mailing will include a paper copy of the questionnaire, including a self-addressed stamped envelope for return, and also provide directions to fill out the questionnaire online, if the landowner so chooses. One reminder letter will be sent, as necessary, in March 2020.

4) Use information collected from the landowners who complete the survey instrument to characterize their use of the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing Boat Ramp, and precise information on river flow provided by Alabama Power to determine how instream flow affects their recreational use and satisfaction on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam.

5) Combine landowner/landholder information with data gathered at public recreation sites as part of the 2019 Tallapoosa River User Survey (Hunt 2019).

4.0 GENERAL RESEARCH PLAN

1. Alabama Power provided the Principal investigator (PI) with the Randolph, Chambers, and Tallapoosa County tax databases for individuals who own property(ies) along the Tallapoosa River. Breakdown of the total number of properties is below.

PARCEL LAND USE CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROPERTIES
AGRICULTURAL LAND	14
ALABAMA POWER OWNED LAND	40
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY	8
INDUSTRIAL TIMBERLAND	105
RESIDENTIAL LAND (residential or vacation)	78
STATE OF ALABAMA OWNED LAND	21
U.S. GOVERNMENT OWNED LAND	10
UNIDENTIFIED LAND	22
VACANT LAND	150
TOTAL	448

For purposes of this study, only landowners who own residential, vacation, agricultural land that may be used as a residence, or non-industrial vacant land that is tied to an individual landowner will be studied. After removing duplicate listings for landowners, this will result in a sample size of **n=205** landowners who will be targeted with the survey.

2. A survey instrument (Attachment A) was developed by PI in close cooperation with Alabama Power. The survey focuses on landowner's use of the Tallapoosa River for purposes of recreation (i.e., swimming, boating, canoeing, kayaking, wade or boat/canoe/kayak fishing, and wildlife watching) including days of participation, use of the Tallapoosa River on the landowner's property by others, and attitudes about their

experience with the Tallapoosa River and water level/flow. Additionally, landowners will be provided two open-ended comment sections to provide feedback on a) recreation on the Tallapoosa River, and b) other resources issues in the Tallapoosa River associated with the Harris Dam Relicensing Project. Finally, the survey includes a mechanism (Attachment B) for landowners to provide the acceptability of water levels at a given point in time within 30 days of the survey start date.

3. The online survey will be housed on SurveyMonkey.com, a commercial website. A short URL, such as: https://surveymonkey.com/Tallapoosa will be used for the survey for ease of use by participants. Each landowner will be provided with a unique ID number to use when they log into the survey that can be only used once to complete the questionnaire. This ID will also be on the paper copy of the questionnaire to ensure duplicate surveys are not submitted.

4. The PI will prepare three (3) mailings associated with this undertaking. First, an introductory Pre-Survey Letter will be sent to each of the 205 landowners (signed by an Alabama Power representative) on February 3, 2020 with general information about the study. Second, a letter requesting landowner participation in study, directing them to the online survey, and providing landowners with a paper copy of the questionnaire, self-addressed stamped envelope, and return postcard will be sent on February 10, 2020. Third, a second letter requesting the participation of those who have not already responded will be sent on March 2, 2020. Each of the three letters will stress the confidentiality of the data provided by landowners.

5. The PI will make all analysis associated with survey responses and will provide open ended comments in an organized manner. Nonresponse bias will be investigated and corrected as necessary using appropriate statistical weighting procedures.

6. The PI will incorporate survey analysis with data collected at public recreation access areas as part of the 2019 Tallapoosa River User Survey and develop a comprehensive report regarding recreation use and instream flow in the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam to Jaybird Landing (Hunt 2019).

4.0 LITERATURE CITED

Hunt, Kevin M. 2019. R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project Downstream Landowner Survey; A Research Proposal Submitted to Kleinschmidt Associates for Alabama Power R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2628. Starkville, MS.

5.0 CONSULTATION

DATE	CONSULTATION
December 2, 2019	Alabama Power submitted Tallapoosa River Landowner Research Plan and Survey to Harris Action Team 5
December 11, 2019	Conference Call with Harris Action Team 5 to discuss the Tallapoosa River Landowner Research Plan and Survey[1]
December 16, 2019	Comments from Harris Action Team 5 due to Alabama Power. Alabama Power received written comments from Martha Hunter (Alabama Rivers Alliance) and Donna Matthews (stakeholder).
December 19, 2019	Alabama Power files Tallapoosa River Landowner Research Plan and Survey with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[1] Detailed meeting notes are located in Attachment C.

ATTACHMENT A

TALLAPOOSA RIVER LANDOWNER SURVEY

Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey



You were selected for this study because you were identified as a residential landowner, agricultural landowner, or the owner of vacant land adjacent to the Tallapoosa River between R.L. Harris Dam and Jaybird Landing in the upper reaches of Lake Martin that could possibly be used for river-related recreation. **Where you may own multiple land parcels on the Tallapoosa River, please complete this questionnaire based on the land parcel on which you reside or use as a vacation destination. If you do not reside or vacation for some part of the year at your property(ies) on the river, please complete this survey based on your most upstream property**. The information you provide will remain strictly confidential, and you will not be identified with your answers. Answers will be grouped with other respondents in a non-identifiable manner for reporting purposes.

1. How long have you owned this property on the Tallapoosa River? _____ YEARS

2. What are the primary uses of your land on this property? ***(Please check all that apply)***

   _____ PERMANENT HOME RESIDENCE
   _____ SEASONAL/VACATION RESIDENCE
   _____ RECREATIONAL USE
   _____ TIMBER PRODUCTION
   _____ AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
   _____ VACANT PROPERTY WITH NO DESIGNATED USE
   _____ OTHER (***Please specify***: _____)

3. Which of the following types of river-related recreation do you personally engage in on the Tallapoosa River from your property? ***(Please check all that apply)***

   _____ A. SHORE OR WADE FISHING
   _____ B. SWIMMING
   _____ C. TUBING
   _____ D. BOATING (NON-FISHING)
   _____ E. BOAT FISHING
   _____ F. CANOEING (NON-FISHING)
   _____ G. CANOE FISHING
   _____ H. KAYAKING (NON-FISHING)
   _____ I. KAYAK FISHING
   _____ J. SCENIC/WILDLIFE VIEWING
   _____ K. I DON'T PARTICIPATE IN ANY (***Please go to Question #10***)

4. Of the ten (10) river-related recreation activities listed in Question #3, what is your personal **favorite** to do from your property? ***(Please circle only one)***

   A B C D E F G H I J

5. From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 , how many days did you personally participate in all of the river-related recreation activities listed in Question #3 **combined** from your property?

_____ DAYS

6. From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, how many days did you personally participate in your **favorite** river-related recreation activity you selected in Question #4 from your property?

_____ DAYS

7. Do you check the Tallapoosa River USGS water level gages or Alabama Power generation schedule before planning your **favorite** river-related recreation activity on your property?

1 YES
2 NO

8. In general, is there a time of day where you find the water level of the Tallapoosa River most acceptable to you for participating in your favorite river-related recreation activity from your property?

1 YES – (***Please specify TIME:*** _____ ***AM or PM***)
2 NO

9. In general, is there a month of the year where you find the water level of the Tallapoosa River most acceptable to you for participating in your favorite river-related recreation activity from your property?

1 YES – (***Please specify MONTH:*** _____***)***
2 NO

10. Do you allow people other than individuals who live with you to participate in river-related recreation from your property?

1 YES
2 NO --- (***Please go to Question #13***)

11. What is the relationship to you of the individuals who you allow to participate in river-related recreation from your property? ***(Please check all that apply)***

_____ EXTENDED FAMILY OR RELATIVES
_____ FRIENDS
_____ RENTERS
_____ BUSINESS ASSOCIATES/EMPLOYEES
_____ HUNTING OR FISHING LEASE HOLDERS
_____ OTHER (***Please specify***: _____)

12. Including yourself, how many people that you know of accessed the Tallapoosa River from your property for river-related recreation from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019?

_____ NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS

13. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your experiences with the Tallapoosa River:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) I am concerned with bank erosion on my property along the Tallapoosa River	1	2	3	4	5
b) I believe the water quality on the Tallapoosa River near my property is good	1	2	3	4	5

c) I believe the variety and abundance of aquatic organisms (fish, reptile, amphibians) in the Tallapoosa River near my property is good 1	2	3	4	5
d) I believe the variety and abundance of wildlife populations on the Banks of the Tallapoosa River near my property is good 1	2	3	4	5
e) The overall health of the Tallapoosa River on my property is good ... 1	2	3	4	5
f) I believe there is sufficient public access on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam for recreational purposes..... 1	2	3	4	5
g) Most of the encounters I have with Tallapoosa River recreationists who pass by my property are pleasant ones 1	2	3	4	5
h) Most Tallapoosa River recreationists are respectful of my property and property rights 1	2	3	4	5
i) I am concerned with people I do not know accessing my property from the Tallapoosa River 1	2	3	4	5

14. Alabama Power changed the Harris Project operations in 2005. Based on your experiences, how would you rate the conditions of the Tallapoosa River around your property since that time?

    1 WORSE
    2 BETTER
    3 SAME
    4 I DON'T KNOW, I DIDN'T OWN THE PROPERTY BEFORE 2005

15. You were provided with a post card in the mailing that informed you about this study asking you to visit the Tallapoosa River on your property and complete the questions on the post card. Will you be able to complete and send back that post card prior to February 21, 2020[2]?

    1 YES
    2 NO

16. Is there anything you would like to share with Alabama Power specifically regarding recreation on the Tallapoosa River? Please provide use box provided below for your comments.

17. Is there anything in general you would like to share with Alabama Power regarding the R.L. Harris Dam Relicensing Process or Tallapoosa River? Please provide the box provided below your comments.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

[2] For paper copies of the survey, the postcard question regarding water level acceptability will appear here.

ATTACHMENT B

TALLAPOOSA RIVER LANDOWNER SURVEY - POSTCARD

TEXT OF POSTCARD CORRESPONDENCE

SURVEY ID

At your next possible convenience, please go to the Tallapoosa River on your property with this postcard and a pen.

Once at the Tallapoosa River, please complete the following

Date: _____

Time: _____ AM or PM

What is your favorite river-related recreation activity at this spot on the Tallapoosa River?

_____

On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being "**VERY UNACCEPTABLE**" and 10 being "**VERY ACCEPTABLE**", how would you rate the water level right now for your favorite activity indicated above?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Thank you for your cooperation. Please put this card in the mail as soon as possible, no additional postage is needed.

ATTACHMENT C

DECEMBER 11, 2019 MEETING NOTES AND SUBMITTED COMMENTS

Meeting Summary
HAT 5 Meeting
December 11, 2019
9:00 am to 10:00 am
Conference Call

Participants:
Angie Anderegg – Alabama Power
Dave Anderson – Alabama Power
Kate Cosnahan – Kleinschmidt Associates
Colin Dinken – Kleinschmidt Associates
Amanda Fleming – Kleinschmidt Associates
Tina Mills – Alabama Power
Alan Creamer – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
Martha Hunter – Alabama Rivers Alliance (ARA)
Carol Knight – Stakeholder
Donna Matthews – Stakeholder
Sarah Salazar – FERC

Action Items:

- Alabama Power will revise the Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey Research Plan to include a paper survey option in the mailings.
- Alabama Power will develop an anonymous internet survey for river users to express opinions regarding their recreation experience on the Tallapoosa River.
- Carol Knight, Martha Hunter, and Donna Matthews will talk to local landowners they know about the Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey (meeting, social media, etc).

Meeting Summary:

Angie Anderegg (Alabama Power) opened the meeting by introducing everyone. Amanda Fleming (Kleinschmidt Associates) then explained the purpose, study area, goals and objectives, and timeline of the Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey Research Plan (Research Plan).

Martha Hunter (ARA) and Donna Matthews (Stakeholder) stated that reviewing and commenting on the landowner survey portion of the Research Plan seemed to be happening fast, and stakeholders usually have a longer time to comment. They also expressed concerns that some landowners may not have internet access and would not be able to participate in the landowner survey. Angie responded that Alabama Power could also send out a paper version of the landowner survey. Donna suggested that local people may need to communicate with other local people to get full cooperation, perhaps by sending out hard copies of the survey. Carol Knight knows several landowners that do not use the river but let other people use it from their land. These users would have valuable opinions so she asked if she would be allowed to take copies of the survey to distribute them to these river users. Amanda replied that the downstream recreation user study included a question asking river users where they started their trip and where they planned to end it, listing private property as an option.

Martha commented that a public meeting may be a good way to brief downstream landowners and recreators on filling out the survey. Amanda replied that Alabama Power held several public meetings in 2018-2019, giving people an opportunity to provide input. Donna suggested evening meetings and more convenient venues and ways to collect information. Carol asked about input from other river recreationists using private property. Amanda suggested that perhaps the survey could be adapted to include those who access the river via private land.

Donna asked when the results from the downstream portion of the recreation study would be available and Amanda replied that the data is still being analyzed. Donna asked how many interviews were administered to recreators during the downstream user survey and Colin Dinken (Kleinschmidt Associates) replied that the number was around 200.

Carol expressed concern that locals may not be represented by the questionnaires issued at public recreation sites. Angie agreed and said that is one reason why the landowner survey was developed. Alabama Power continues to post information on the relicensing website for stakeholders that may or may not be participating in a Harris Action Team (HAT).

Amanda reminded the attendees that comments on the landowner survey are due to Angie by December 16, 2019 and Alabama Power will file the landowner survey with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on December 18, 2019. Those stakeholders that signed up for eLibrary on the FERC website will see the filing when it posts in FERC's system. Sarah Salazar (FERC) asked if there was someone to contact if a landowner needed help completing the survey. Amanda replied that there will be a number to contact Dr. Kevin Hunt, the researcher who designed the landowner survey.

Sarah suggested that HAT 5 members could collaborate with Alabama Power to develop the cover letter for the landowner survey and add statements from landowners and ARA to encourage participation. Martha commented that a longer timeframe may be needed to comment and collaborate. Carol offered to help inform landowners about the survey in the local paper or on social media. Regarding the timeframe, Angie stated that the licensing process has certain deadlines to which Alabama Power must adhere. The landowner survey will be filed with FERC before the holidays and will be sent to landowners on January 6, 2020[1]. Landowners will have a few months to complete the survey and return it (if paper survey) or complete the online survey. Amanda stated that Alabama Power put a lot of effort into developing this landowner survey so it would be great to receive plenty of responses.

The group discussed capturing feedback from the years predating the dam when people may have used the river more frequently. Angie noted that Alabama Power has already received several stakeholder comments on this issue. Angie suggested that question 14 of the landowner survey could be expanded to include users' opinions of historical river conditions. Sarah said the cover letter may need a sentence or two explaining that it is not important to know everything about the Harris Project or the FERC licensing process to participate in and complete the survey.

[1] Based on stakeholder comments, Alabama Power does not plan on distributing the landowner survey until February 2020.

Donna asked about how best to stay informed on this study and the overall Harris Project relicensing process. Angie responded that stakeholders can stay informed through the communications to HAT 5 and the relicensing website at harrisrelicensing.com.

The meeting concluded at 10 AM central.

Alabama Rivers Alliance
Water Is Life

December 16, 2019
RE: HAT5 Tallapoosa River Landowner Survey Project FERC 2628

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for hosting the call on December 11 concerning the Tallapoosa River landowner survey for downstream landowners. We appreciate you giving the community a space to express their concerns and suggestions.

The Alabama Rivers Alliance would like to request a review of the updated survey and procedures based on the suggestions made on the conference call.

Our understanding is that this survey and process is scheduled to begin on January 6, 2020. **Please note that we request a 30 day extension for this important process.** The Alabama Rivers Alliance is confident this would give Alabama Power and FERC a better representation of how instream flow affects the downstream landowner's recreational use and satisfaction on the Tallapoosa River downstream of the Harris Dam.

Here are some of the areas of concern and our suggestions:
1) NOTIFYING LANDOWNERS
According to some of the local residents we have worked with, there is a cynicism associated with Alabama Power and some of the community members who are contacted may immediately dismiss any correspondence received. Others may read the request but not fully understand the importance of their input. Other landowners may not have access to participate in a computer-only survey.

Our suggested solution: A local landowner has expressed interest and willingness to plan and implement a meeting of the local landowners. This grassroots approach of neighbor-to-neighbor will help increase the trust level to participate. This also provides an opportunity for those without computer access to fill out online with some assistance, or to complete a paper survey.

2) ARE YOU LOSING THE INPUT FROM WHO USE THE RIVER VIA THESE PROPERTY OWNERS?
Questions 10-12 relates to others using the property, but doesn't really give a voice to the actual river user. We would like to request that the survey be modified to show whether the person taking the survey is the landowner, or if they are someone who participates from a private piece of property. They could be identified as one of those listed in Q #11.

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Alabama Rivers Alliance
Water Is Life

They would answer the same questions about how many days, etc. For the non-landowners, we suggest that the survey should determine how many private pieces of property they access to get to the river.

3) HISTORICAL USAGE INCREASE OR DECREASE
Is the historical usage/change captured and if the use has decreased, is it because of the age of landowners, changes in the rivers or other factors? We don't feel the current questions as worded is capturing this information. Our understanding is that many of these property owners are now aging, and recreation they enjoyed on the river 10 or 40 years ago may have changed based on their current ability.
For instance, question #3: maybe they used to personally engage in these activities 15 years ago, but they can't today.

We suggest that there should be a question that captures if there is a decrease (or increase) of recreational usage, what is the cause of that increase or decrease. Possible answers may include: aging landowners, bank erosion, flooding, water quality, decrease in fish size or quantity, not knowing the water level/releases, etc. Some landowners may have an increase in usage because they now lease their property for recreational use, or have grandkids who bring friends, or they like the predictable highs and lows of the Harris Dam release.

4) FAVORITE RECREATION ACTIVITY On question 7, we would recommend removing "favorite" from this question. Also, we believe the landowners are aware of the general schedule.

5) PRE-DAM QUESTION? Do you remember this part of the river prior to the dam? Do you feel the river has improved or gotten worse since the river was dammed? We suggest the survey captures what changes they have seen in an open-ended comment box or provide a list of potential changes for the landowner to select.

6) POSTCARD. Does completion of the postcard counted as landowner participation even though it does not capture the detailed info? What is the goal of this postcard?

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these comments. We hope these suggestions are useful in advancing the purpose of the relicensing process.

Sincerely,

Martha Hunter
Alliance Coordinator

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From: Donna Matthews <donnamatthews2014@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 11:50 AM
To: Anderegg, Angela Segars; APC Harris Relicensing; Martha Hunter
Subject: FERC 2628 Harris Project Downstream Landowners Survey

December 16, 2019 FERC #2628

Comments from Downstream survey, protocol and teleconference

Dear Amanda and All,

Thank you for hosting the call on the 11th and for sending out protocol details and the sample survey. Some comments and thoughts are below.

1. Using the postcard (Attachment B) is a good way to quickly assess landowner interest amongst the 205 landowners, but does not appear to be sufficiently detailed to serve as a substitute for a completed survey.

2. I am concerned that **limiting the survey to the landholders** along the 30+ miles of river in the project boundary will not produce a fulsome picture of recreation on the river; what questions in the new survey will 'fill the gaps' left from the onsite surveys conducted May – October 2019? Elder landowners who were active 40 years ago, may not participate as they once did. Their interests may have shifted or they may have left the area. They may require encouragement to engage.

Local stakeholders can organize peer-to-peer effort to generate survey participation and completions.

3. The **stringent compressed timetable for conducting this late-date survey** is concerning. For the life of this APC project, the downstream owners and river users have not had resolution of their complaints. The final resolution will likely not give them what they desire for this relicensing period (redesign of the dam to allow run of river flows and some upstream fish migration), but the relicensing process can certainly acknowledge and record their experiences of the river for the past 40 years. The downstream subgroup of HAT 5, while utilizing river within the project boundaries has seen no upside to Harris Dam for their lives or property. Without a formal group to speak for them (a lake association for instance) they are slower than other HAT teams to mobilize. To get an accurate look at how people use what is left of the river requires extra effort and **additional time. What modifications can be made to the timetable?**

4. **An exclusively online survey will exclude elderly landowners** and others. Many people we previously contacted regarding making a submission to FERC before the end of the public comment period, simply had no internet or email. The protocol as presented would disallow their participation.

5. **Regarding the 05-13-2019 Tallapoosa River User Survey implemented May-Oct 2019:** Questions 1-11 focus on respondent 'snap shots' of their river experience at a precise moment in time. This are important questions and they capture a specific type of data.

Under represented is capture of prospective desires of river users. Question 12 asks the question, but fails to elicit what might enhance river utilization, ie, camping sites, toilet facilities, better signage. This issue can be addressed by modifying the proposed new survey by adding **additional questions.** (See #7 below) "Would you like to see more access points for recreation along the Tallapoosa River? More campsites? More boat launches? Improved parking areas? Toilet facilities?" ??? Or a more open ended "Given the current operating protocols of water release from the dam, what actions could APC take to improve your recreational experiences; ie, better communication regarding release times, prominently displayed fish consumption warning advisory signage?

6. Maybe at this stage of the project, the rollout of plans for improvements for public use of the 40+ miles of downstream project area is untimely. I am searching for an indication that public improvements downstream are in the works or have been considered and rejected during this relicensing effort. Is there a publication of such considerations? Are the May-Oct findings public yet? I am also unclear about the FERC Form 80, when it will be published, whether there is a separate publication for each HAT?

7. It would be very helpful If APC would provide contact information of the 205 Landowners to be contacted about the new survey.

8. Regarding the current survey: **I propose adding questions to landowners**

a. to assess their interest in working with to APC to satisfy user appetite for additional access and public recreation sites along the 40 miles of the downstream project area. For instance, this may look like APC purchase of choice access points or establishing long term leasing arrangements….. possibly with landowners not targeted to receive the surveys…. ie industrial, commercial timber interests, state or government owned properties.

b. to better address prospective river use: "Would you like to see more access points for recreation along the Tallapoosa River? More campsites? More boat launches? Improved parking areas? Toilet facilities?" ???

Or a more open ended "Given the current operating protocols of water release from the dam, what actions could APC take to improve your recreational experiences; ie, better

communication regarding release times, prominently displayed fish consumption warning advisory signage?”

c. specifically, what -if anything- has been lost in recreational opportunity since completion of the dam? Have things changed for you? If so, how?

Going forward it seems, genuine APC interest in the concerns of downstream stakeholders and willingness to make community requested/driven **investments in infrastructure is the only practical remediation available during this licensing cycle to heal/repair decades of local distrust.**

Thank you for the care and time you all have put into this project. Even with all the planning and organizing you have done, there is still a staggering learning curve, difficult for citizens to grasp.

Sincerely,

Donna Matthews

105 Woodland Ave SE

Wedowee, AL 36278

PO Box 1054

APPENDIX K

STAKEHOLDER COMMENT TABLE

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
1.	**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)**	9/11/20	Table 8 of the Draft Recreation Evaluation report compares the total recreation days for each project recreation site at Lake Harris. Between 2014 and 2019, Flat Rock Park saw a significant decline in recreation use. The study report also describes a decrease in operating hours for Flat Rock Park in 2019. If the information is available, please modify the report to: • Describe how the reduced hours at Flat Rock Park in 2019 factored into the capacity calculation (i.e., was total capacity reduced in the calculation?). • Provide annual estimates of total recreation days and percent capacity utilization at Flat Rock Park for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. If adequate data is not available to provide these estimates, please provide any parking data or other information collected by the Flat Rock Park operators that may aid in understanding the trend in use at the site. • Describe any management changes that occurred between 2014 and 2019, and the year in which those changes took place.	Although reduced hours were not considered in the 2019 Flat Rock Park capacity calculation, Southwick Associates (Southwick) reviewed the 2014 and 2019 capacity information and provided the following clarification and adjustment: In the *Lake Harris Public Access User Count and Public Access Questionnaires* report (Southwick 2020a) (Appendix C), Southwick reported capacity at Flat Rock Park as an active recreation use area (daily capacity = Total # of single car parking spaces multiplied by 2 (average users per vehicle) multiplied by 2 (average turnover throughout the day)). Site capacity in this calculation included two amenities at Flat Rock Park (swim area and reservoir fishing). As shown above, these methods relied heavily on parking areas for the entire site. Methodologies for reporting and calculating data were different between 2014 and 2019. In 2014, Alabama Power reported Form 80 data based on site amenities and did not calculate use for recreation sites as a whole. For Flat Rock Park, Alabama Power identified and calculated daily capacity for the following amenities separately: reservoir fishing, swim areas, picnic areas, and trails based on number of users. These amenity totals were reported as part of recreation use over Lake Harris as a whole. A few corrections, summarized below, were made to *Lake Harris Public Access User Count and Public Access Questionnaires* report (Southwick 2020a) (Appendix C) in Table 8. A value of 52, 852 was reported as the total recreation days for 2014. This did not include trail use as this was not a separate amenity identified by Southwick in 2019. In addition, Southwick reported 56 percent capacity utilization based on the identification of Flat Rock Park as a swim area. It should be noted that in 2014, Alabama Power reported capacity for Reservoir

[1] This table contains a summary of the comments received. The complete comment letters (including footnotes) are included with the consultation record.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
				Fishing as 41.6 percent and Trails as 5.4 percent. As such, capacity in 2014 as reported in the *Lake Harris Public Access User Count and Public Access Questionnaires* report was revised to 53,770 and 54 percent. Additionally, an error was identified in the code used to calculate the estimated percent capacity utilization for Flat Rock in 2019. The original code did not accurately reflect the total days the site was open for use in 2019. A value of 9 percent was reported as percent utilization capacity. That value has been revised to 36 percent. Separate from the adjustments regarding Flat Rock Park, Southwick also updated the *Lake Harris Public Access User Count and Public Access Questionnaires* report (Southwick 2020a) (Appendix C) for Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp (the reported total recreation days value of 1,463 at the Little Fox Creek boat ramp in 2014 did not include trail use. The value has been updated to 2,024 and the percent capacity utilization adjusted to 11 percent), Foster's Bridge (corrected to 18 percent capacity utilization to correct a reporting error), and the total recreation days in 2014 (revised from 236,817 to 238,297). Alabama Power is providing the data collected by park mangers for Flat Rock Park from 1995 to 2018 in a separate table at the end of this attachment. These data only reflect use at the swim and picnic area and do not include use of the trails or reservoir fishing area. There were no management changes between 2014 and 2019. Alabama Power manages Flat Rock Park operations based on attendance. Each year Alabama Power determines when to reduce hours based on recent daily attendance. Attendance varies yearly based on numerous factors, such as the local and national economy, weather, and school calendar. In addition to the entrance counts, park managers note circumstances

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				that cause Flat Rock Park to close early on any given day.
2.	**FERC**	9/11/20	Appendix B contains photos of each recreation site. We recommend adding a photo of the boat launch at the Highway 48 Bridge recreation site, as it does not appear in the images you provide.	A photo of boat launch at the Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp was added to Appendix B.
3.	**FERC**	9/11/20	In Appendix B, you provide aerial imagery of Wedowee Marine South. On Sheet 2 of 2, we recommend clearly labeling the amenities at the site that are used for "project recreation."	Only "Project Recreation" amenities are labeled on Sheet 2 of Wedowee Marine South in Appendix B. The "non-project" amenities are not labeled (but are shown in the aerial image). These non-project amenities are: watercraft sales (located in the ship store), a marine service building that has an overflow parking lot (15 boat and trailer spaces) and an associated single lane boat ramp, and a tournament meeting building that contains public restrooms.
4.	**FERC**	9/11/20	On p. 11 of Appendix C, you describe how capacity was calculated for Flat Rock Park., However, the description is confusing and refers readers to the 2014 FERC Form 80. As discussed in item 1, above, please describe in greater detail how capacity was calculated for Flat Rock Park.	See response to comment number 1.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
5.	**Bob Fincher State Rep. 37th House Dict.**	9/29/20	It has long been my belief that there should be increased public access to Lake Wedowee in the form of swimming and picnic areas. We need more access for the public along the shores of the beautiful waterfront. I would strongly urge your consideration for this proposal. There are many who cannot afford a lake home who would enjoy recreational opportunities on the Lake and who would take advantage of such facilities.	As noted in the Harris Project *Recreation Evaluation Study Plan,* Alabama Power will consult with Harris Action Team (HAT) 5 members to review the recreation facility needs and use data and assess potential development of additional recreation sites and upgrades to existing sites at the Harris Project, including the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam. Alabama Power will present the proposal for any recreation upgrades and new sites (recreation protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PME)), developed in consultation with HAT 5, in the Preliminary Licensing Proposal (PLP).
6.	**Drew Morgan East Alabama Fly Fishing**	9/29/20	River Access: Concrete boat launches at the dam, Malone bridge, and Wadley Bridge. I mainly fish between Germany's Ferry and Jaybird Creek due to lack of access upstream. Better access upriver would give me more opportunities. I believe it would also bring more recreation and even business opportunities to the town of Wadley. Just look at how many people put in at Horseshoe Bend. It would also make the river safer for floaters.	Alabama Power will consult with HAT 5 members and present the proposal for any recreation upgrades and new sites in the PLP.
7.	**Drew Morgan East Alabama Fly Fishing**	9/29/20	Turbidity gauges at the USGS Wadley and HB gauge. Not sure if this is in the realm of the project, but floaters and fishers would benefit from knowing the water clarity before they leave home to float or fish. The temperature gauges added by ADEM have been very helpful.	Alabama Power will present the proposal for any recreation upgrades and new sites (recreation PME), developed in consultation with HAT 5, in the PLP.
8.	**Drew Morgan East Alabama Fly Fishing**	9/29/20	Whatever the biologists say needs to happen to protect native species such as the Redeye Bass. People come from all around the South to fish the Tallapoosa for Redeye Bass...it needs to stay good!	Alabama Power is evaluating fish species and habitat in the Tallapoosa River as part of other relicensing studies.

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9.	**Donna McKay Mayor, Town of Wadley**	9/29/20	The acquiring of some lands in Wadley and along the Tallapoosa River—upstream and downstream-- by Alabama Power to provide recreational areas of play, cook-out areas, boat launchings, access to the river for kayaks, canoes, tubes, etc. would be instrumental in the lives of the people of this area, those that follow the Alabama Scenic River Trail, and to the economy and development of Wadley—which has always been fortunate to have the beautiful Tallapoosa running through it. The Wadley Town Council and Mayor stand ready and willing to help promote the value of this natural resource in every way possible. I pledge that the Town will work with Alabama Power to help secure needed land acquisition in order to provide an array of opportunities for people from everywhere to enjoy the Tallapoosa River, its forgotten communities along its sandy banks, and to take notice of our precious town.	Alabama Power will consult with HAT 5 members and present the proposal for any recreation upgrades and new sites in the PLP.
10.	**Jimmy Traylor**	9/30/20	If a person wishes to float the river for enjoyment or fishing purposes, the only way this can occur is to put in the river during a pulse. If you miss the pulse, you will be walking the river verses floating. There is not enough water to float, nor is there enough water to have a flow to enjoy what ever your purpose is for being in the river. God help you if you are on the river in Malone and generation begins. I have stated in the past safety issues surrounding the dam. One or two generator operations of the dam can create serious safety issues. Several years ago, we almost lost my Brother and Brother in Law to generation. This occurred in the shoals downstream from Malone. According to the web site, there was only to be generations that day, but the dam released two turbines that day. That was the only time in my life I was forced to call search and rescue. Thankfully, all of the kids were accounted for. This incident ended well, but it could have easily gone the other way. I continually warn people to always prepare for worse case scenario when recreating in the river. If everyone wants to reach an agreement, someone at APC needs to simply say what APC wants to do with the river. From my side, I want the river to be fixed, to include the following:	Following procedures of the ILP process, Alabama Power is concluding the relicensing studies and will now begin to discuss PME measures with stakeholders. Alabama Power's full PME proposal will be presented in the Preliminary Licensing Proposal. Public safety issues will be addressed in either the Preliminary Licensing Proposal or Final License Application.

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			1. Continuous flow that is enough to comfortably float the river and that adds sufficient water for the fish to thrive. 2. Water temperatures that are indicative of a warm water fishery. 3. Stop flushing the toilet! Generation that is continuous with the flow 4. Complete study and restoration of the ecosystem to include: The River, the tributaries, the bugs, snakes, snapping turtles, mammals, etc.… I would suggest raising the lake level. APC will need to address the continuous flow and temperature and the flow and temperature will need to be discussed. This should address the lake shareholders as well as the shareholders below the dam.	
11.	**Tim Coe Mayor of Wedowee**	9/30/20	I am extremely disappointed that Alabama Power has not included any plans for additional day use areas on the East side of Lake Wedowee. At the present time, there are no opportunities for the non lot owners to enjoy this beautiful lake on the eastern shore. While this is certainly one of the most beautiful and scenic lakes in Alabama, owning a lot on the lake is not financially feasible for the majority of Wedowee and Randolph County residents. The only available day use area is Flat Rock, which is not easily accessible to many people. It also is not open year-round and has an unfortunate history of many drownings occurring there. Alabama Power does own land on the East side of the lake that would be more accessible to the majority of Randolph County residents and would provide a great opportunity for our citizens of Randolph County to more easily enjoy the beauty of the lake. Please consider the addition of a day use area on the East side of the lake to the relicensing plan.	Alabama Power will consult with HAT 5 members and present the proposal for any recreation upgrades and new sites in the PLP.

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12	**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)**	9/30/20	Future boating demand on Lake Harris is currently unknown for the entire duration of the license. Results and Conclusions in Section 3.4.2 of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report indicate an increase in total recreational days and in overall population growth in the four counties surrounding the Harris Project between 2020 and 2040. Therefore, ADCNR continues to request consultation with Alabama Power in the selection of future recreational sites to safeguard they are located in suitable areas for anglers, boaters and natural resources. The sites need to be large enough to suit any future demand of boaters and anglers and the sites need to meet the engineering requirements for an appropriately sized facility. We recommend any suitable identified property continue to be classified as recreational. In addition, the distribution and accessibility of public boat ramps in the lake should be fully evaluated when considering reclassifying recreation zoned areas. In areas of the lake with few public boating access points or high boat ramp usage, there should be recreational zoned properties for future boat ramp additions available to meet angler demand.	Alabama Power is consulting with HAT 5 on recreation PME measures. In addition, Alabama Power will review its land use classification proposal, in consultation with ADCNR, to ensure adequate lands are held for potential future recreation sites.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
13.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 23, section 2.2.2.4 of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include date ranges in which each of the surveys were conducted. Recreation use data was collected at recreational facilities from March to December 2019, however questionnaires were only filled out from May to December 2019. When presenting results from these reports it is important to specify that they represent only partial time periods, not a full year of data. The questionnaires missed an active time for anglers. ADCNR is concerned that recreational anglers may not be adequately represented in this data. The lack of data from March and April during a prime angling and fishing tournament time period should be described and discussed as to how it potentially skews the results in section 4.0 of the Draft Recreational Evaluation Report.	In its April 2019 Study Plan Determination, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requested that Alabama Power add the Lake Harris questionnaire. Therefore, Alabama Power started those surveys in May 2019. Prior to that point, there were no requests to conduct recreation surveys on Lake Harris. As explained in the draft Recreation Evaluation Report, Lake Harris recreation counts were conducted from March to December 2019 and Lake Harris public access questionnaires were conducted from May to December 2019. In addition, the downstream recreation user counts and surveys were conducted at public access points from May to October 2019. Finally, the Tallapoosa River downstream landowner survey and Tallapoosa River recreation user survey were conducted from February to May 2020. These studies were added in December 2019, to address any data gaps in from the downstream recreation user counts and surveys at public access points. Per the FERC- approved study plan methodology, the study was not designed to last an entire year.
14.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 5, section 1.1.1, second paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, the wording of the fall drawdown, and rise to full pool in spring, should be re-written to indicate that October 1st is the initiating of lowering elevation, and that the reservoir reaches winter pool by December 1st. In the Spring, April 1st is the initiation of rising elevation, and full pool is reached by May 1st.	This change was made in the final report.
15.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 5, section 1.1.1, third paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, it states "The Recreation Evaluation of the Lake Harris Study Area includes the examination of 12 Project recreation sites around the Harris Reservoir (Table 1-1) and Lakeside Marina and Wedowee Marine (Figure 1-3)." Reword and insert "…and two Non-Project recreation sites Lakeside Marina and Wedowee Marine (Figure 1-3)".	This change was made in the final report.

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16.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 6, Table 1-1, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, in addition to the Type of Facility Column, include the Management and Ownership Columns from Table B-2 of the Lake Harris Recreation Site Inventory and Condition Assessment Appendix B. Alphabetize sites and list in the same order in subsequent Tables depicting details of recreation site inventories. Include an asterisk and caveat that the Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier is downstream of the dam. Include asterisks and caveat in all subsequent Tables denoting the private marinas and Non-Project recreation sites.	Management and Ownership information for the Lake Harris recreation sites are already presented in Appendix B. In addition, tables and sites are listed in the same order in all of the tables in the Recreation Evaluation Report (R.L. Management Area is listed as the last site, not alphabetical order, because of the unique nature of the site compared to the others). Alabama Power did not change the site order listed in any reports produced by Southwick Associates or Dr. Kevin Hunt.
17.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 6, section 1.1.1, fourth paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, wording should indicate that Jaybird Landing provides access, "upstream to Irwin Shoals", but not "upstream of Irwin Shoals", thus navigation is very limited, if even feasible through Irwin Shoals. Navigating the shoals to gain upstream access would be extremely difficult with either extensive canoe/kayak portage, jet motor propelled boats, or modified jon boats with jet propulsion.	This change was made in the final report.
18.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 7, Table 1-2 of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, in addition to the Type of Facility Column, include River Mile, Management and Ownership Columns for each site.	This change was made in the final report.
19.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 10, Figure 1-5 of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, in addition to the Harris Project Lands map provided, include ADCNR 2020-2021 permit map available online at: https://www.outdooralabama.com/sites/default/files/Wildlife/wildlife-management-areas/2020-2021/2020-2021%20-%20D2%20Map%20Final%20-%20James%20D.%20Martin%20Skyline-ss2.pdf	This map was included as Appendix I in the final Recreation Evaluation Report.
20.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 21, section 2.2.1, first paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, it states, "A total of 12 Project recreation sites and 2 additional commercial access areas were identified (Figure 1-3)." Reword and insert "…and two additional Non-Project commercial access areas were identified (Figure 1-3)."	This change was made in the final report.
21.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 21, section 2.2.2.1, last paragraph, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, state the study duration period.	A table showing the duration for each of the study components was added to Section 2.1 of the final Recreation Evaluation Report.

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22.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 23, section 2.2.2.4, first paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include how many Lake Harris Project recreation sites the questionnaires were administered at. Potential bias of the study design needs to be discussed in the conclusions and discussion section of the report. In the second paragraph it states, "The majority of questionnaires were collected from May through September, as this time period corresponds to the highest recreation use." It is important to note that this may be the highest recreation use period overall but may not be the highest angler use period.	Questionnaires were collected at all of the Harris Project recreation sites. As noted on page 31 of the draft Recreation Evaluation Report, a total of 1,149 (85%) of the surveys were collected at boat launches and the Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier. In addition, Alabama Power employed the FERC-approved study methodology and any issues with study methodology should have been addressed as stakeholders commented during the study planning phase.
23.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 24, section 2.3.1, first paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include the study duration period.	A table showing the duration for each of the study components was added to Section 2.1 of the final Recreation Evaluation Report.
24.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 25, section 2.3.1.3, first paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, contains results in the methods section, move to corresponding results section.	The number of surveys collected is included as part of the survey methodology and not the results of the survey.
25.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 26, section 2.3.1.4, first paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, contains results in the methods section, move to corresponding results section.	The number of surveys collected is included as part of the survey methodology and not the results of the survey.

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26.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 29, section 3.2.2.1, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, define the metric used at Wedowee Marine South, to compute the 79% capacity utilization statistic. If utilizing boat storage, ADCNR would not consider that recreation utilization. ADCNR is not comfortable with using a boat dealership as recreation utilization. Provide if using instant counts, the number of boat slips being utilized, or if these are actual boat launches. Note in this section if the ramp at the Marina is public or private (fee access).	As explained in the draft Recreation Evaluation Report, monitoring at Wedowee Marine South included only use of the public boat launch; other marina activity data were provided by marina staff. Wedowee Marine South provided information on boat slip usage at its facility. The sizable annual visitation estimate at this marina is mainly comprised of a large number of boating activities, including slip usage. Due to evidence of low utilization at the public boat ramp at this location, the survey shift was changed from a full shift to an "instant count". Per page 10 of the *Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires* report, total annual boater recreational days by site = Total slips rented multiplied by 2 (average users per boat) multiplied by total number of days the location is open. Per FERC definitions, both slip rentals and dry storage should be included in the calculation as well as capacity utilization. Only slip rental data was provided by Wedowee Marine South, thus the dry storage portion of these calculations were not included. To the extent that boats in dry storage represent potential usage through the year, exclusion of those days means this estimate of recreational days is conservative. Finally, Table B-3 in Appendix B of the draft Recreation Evaluation Report, notes a $5 launching fee for general public use at Wedowee Marine South Marina.
27.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 29, section 3.2.2.1, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, during point access creel surveys, ADCNR staff has observed the Highway 48 boat ramp over capacity, with vehicles parked along the roadside on Highway 48, especially on weekend days. Staff biologists have had many dealings with a lack of access preventing angling tournaments from coming to Lake Harris and logistical issues due to a large number of recreational boaters trying to utilize the ramps at the same time. When computing percent utilization, and future needs, analysis of weekend days and overuse days, described by maximum observations should be presented. Additionally, providing how many individual days the ramp exceeded parking capacity during the surveys would be useful during evaluation of Lake Harris usage.	Alabama Power employed the methods from the FERC-approved *Recreation Evaluation Study Plan*. These methods were based on FERC's Form 80 guidance which notes that capacity should be determined based on non-peak weekends, not peak (aka holiday) weekends. Although FERC eliminated the Form 80 requirement in 2018, no new regulations regarding recreational use at hydropower projects have been offered.

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28.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 31, section 3.2.2.4, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include a modified Table 9 from Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires with Flat Rock Park improvement percentages added to a column. In addition, add a Mean Percentage column to the table for each improvement row category and order improvement column in descending order of mean percentages for each improvement category. Include a statement in the text stating each of the ten study locations had differing recommendations for areas of improvement. Restrooms were the top suggestion of improvement for all sites except Lees Bridge which had picnic tables/shelter as the top recommendation. Other notable improvement suggestions varying by site but listed by overall recommendation mean percentage order included trash cans, better parking lots, boat launch/ramp, picnic tables, lighting and general maintenance.	Comment noted.
29.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 34, section 3.3, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include a paragraph with combined downstream usage total person-days of recreation results during the study period, determined by utilizing day totals from the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count, the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey, Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey, River Outfitter Attendance Records and the Lake Harris Public Access User Count for Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform. This total number will give an estimate of total Downstream usage during the study period. A percentage comparison of Total Downstream usage to Total Recreation day usage for entire Harris Project Study Area would be useful for comparison and evaluation. Initial estimates calculated from the Draft Recreation Evaluation Reports, indicate total downstream recreation days of 46,519 person-days, 17.5 % of the total recreation days calculated for the total Project Scope during the study duration period.	Each study used different methods and covered different time periods; as a result, it is inappropriate to combine study results. In addition, the results from each study were not mutually exclusive and the same participants were able to complete surveys in one or more of the studies. This would cause some double counting if survey results were combined. Finally, the three studies give a reasonably complete picture of recreation use on the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam.
30.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 34, section 3.3.1, first paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include the study duration. It is important to note that the data is not from a full year study duration period.	A table showing the duration for each of the study components was added to Section 2.1 of the final Recreation Evaluation Report.

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31.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 34, section 3.3.1, second paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include the total data collection effort percentage collected from HBMP downstream to Jaybird Landing and include how many river miles this section encompasses and how far downstream of the dam this section begins. Highlighting that the majority of the survey efforts are focused on the lower downstream Tallapoosa River tailrace. In addition, include what percentage of survey data collected encompasses from upstream of HBMP to Malone and how many river miles this section represents. Noting that the overall survey results of this study are strongly weighted to the lower end of the tailrace and that results may underrepresent or indicate low usage of the upper to middle tailrace sections is important when evaluating the study results. For example, it appears that over 80% of survey responses were from recreation activities in less than 20% of the available tailrace habitat available. Variation in the rates by downstream segment location could skew the average ratings assessed in the study across all stream segments. In the discussion section, include potential reasons for low survey results from these upper and middle tailrace sections, excluding from the dam to Malone (e.g., public access and amenities, diminished flow and temperature variation, location, habitat, safety, lower catch rates). When further analyzing the data, attempt to exclude respondents originating their trips at HBMP and include the recreational users that originated their trip upstream of HBMP. Provide if mean water level acceptability levels or catch rates increased or declined based on river segment. Analyzing survey results by river segment, in addition to overall is recommended.	As Dr. Kevin Hunt was the recreation expert conducting this portion of the study, Alabama Power reached out to him for a response. Dr. Hunt noted that "we counted 608 vehicles during our 36 instantaneous counts. Those counts were not skewed, they were based on 15 minutes at each ramp on each day. Of the 608 vehicles counted, only 95 were counted at Malone, Wadley, and Bibby's Ferry or 15.6%. So, interviews were skewed to the lower end because we expected that heading into the study and sampled proportionally to the lower half of the river, so we'd get sufficient number of interviews. We ended up with 176 useable interviews out of the 608 vehicles for a capture rate of about 29%. At that rate, even if we sampled all 36 days only at Malone, Wadley, or Bibby's Ferry, we would have obtained only 95 x 0.29 = 28 interviews in the entire study. If we stratified sampled (6 days at each of the 6 ramps), that would have halved that to 14 interviews. We only interviewed 7 in that section. Therefore, there is no way we could have obtained the interviews necessary to do this type of breakdown; there is minimal effort on this stretch originating at public ramps".
32.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 34, section 3.3.1, fourth paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, when combined with all forms of fishing, fishing makes up about 60% of respondent activities from May through October 2019. This is worth noting in the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User County and Survey and Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey results, as they were both similar (≈59%).	Comment noted.
33.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 35, section 3.3.1.2, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include a paragraph with overview, results and analysis of the open-ended comments from the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Surveys.	Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and the analysis is presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report. It should be noted that this work was not part of the original study design conducted by Dr. Kevin Hunt.

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34.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 35, section 3.3.1.2, second paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include statement regarding that the majority of the study encompasses the lower reaches of the tailrace. Reduced water level (flow) effects in the lower segments may not require a recreational user checking USGS gages or contacting Alabama Power as frequently.	Comment noted.
35.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 35, section 3.3.1.2, fourth paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, note that creel survey results are highly weighted and representative of the lower downstream section of the tailrace. We recommend providing catch rates for each individual river segment surveyed and indicating what percentage of total recreationists that catch rate represents. Include the percentage of total person-days participation in recreation fishing during the study period. In addition, specify if the estimated person-days of recreation fishing participation is for the study period only or extrapolated for the entire year. If only for the study period include the study period dates for the estimate. If extrapolated for the entire year, potential bias needs to be discussed in the conclusions section pertaining to the equation limitations used for the estimate. Include Figure 5 from the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report but modify chart arrangement to place pie chart sections involving fishing activities side by side with a slightly cut out pie chart section of those fishing activities, and additional label indicating total fishing recreation of 59%.	Alabama Power employed the methods from the FERC-approved *Recreation Evaluation Study Plan*. See Dr. Hunt's response to comment number 31 regarding results for individual river segments. In addition, the draft Recreation Evaluation Report was designed to provide a summary of the seven individual reports included in the Harris Project recreation study and was not intended to replace all of the individual reports or present all of the useful information contained in those reports. The individual reports were attached in full as appendices to the draft Recreation Evaluation Report to provide the full record.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
36.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 36, section 3.3.1.2, first paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, further analysis of Alabama Bass catch rates and flow should be conducted. Figure 15 of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report is not linear and should be reanalyzed, the data appears to show a parabolic type function. Catch increases at intermediate flows (1000-3000 cfs). Having better access at intermediate flow, as well as fish feeding more with flow, probably are mechanisms. Fishing (keeping bait in strike zone) may become difficult at highest flows, and of course, fish may not roam and feed as much during the highest flows.	Dr. Hunt noted, "For Figure 15 presented in the report, each data point was the total # of fish caught per trip. Most catch analyses usually standardize catch to account for unequal effort by converting to Catch per Effort (CPE). If that was done, the parabolic nature to the data the reviewer pointed out wouldn't look so parabolic. Nevertheless, doing so was difficult for this study because a lot of the spotted bass catch was from **non-targeted effort**. For example, someone fishing for "anything" for 5 hours caught 2 spotted bass along with 5 sunfish and a catfish, how much effort should be assigned to spotted bass for the analysis? From Table 11 of the report, since few folks actually "**targeted**" various species, CPE could not be calculated without making various assumptions about the fishing behavior of each party that day that may not reflect reality".
37.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 36, section 3.3.1.3, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, calculate and present what total percentage of respondents participated in a fishing river related activity of some form. Include Figure 6 of the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey Report. There is no overall fishing usage reported in the introductory paragraph concerning popular activities, even though fishing in some form (shore, boat, kayak) accounted for approximately 35% of the responses. It should be noted that fishing also accounted for about 60% of responses related to favorite activities by users in the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey. Fishing only accounted for about 35% of activities in the internet-based questionnaire, which could be biased, as the user group responding to the internet survey is not known. However, encountering users at the river, and by contacting landowners provided insight into users.	Each study used different methods and covered different time periods; as a result, it is inappropriate to combine study results. In addition, the results from each study were not mutually exclusive and the same participants were able to complete surveys in one or more of the studies. This would cause some double counting if survey results were combined.
38.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 37, section 3.3.1.3, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include a paragraph with overview, results and analysis of the open-ended comments from the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey.	Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and the analysis is presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
39.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 39, section 3.3.1.4, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, calculate and present what total percentage of respondents participated in a fishing river related activity of some form. Include Figure 1 of the Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey Report.	This comment refers to Question 1 of the Tallapoosa River Recreation User survey. Respondents were allowed to check all activities that they participated in and therefore the individual responses are not additive. The highest response rate for a fishing activity was 49.14 percent for shore/wade fishing.
40.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 39, section 3.3.1.4, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include an additional paragraph with overview, results and analysis of the open-ended comments from the Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey.	Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and the analysis is presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report.
41.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 39, section 3.3.1.4, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include the study duration period.	A table showing the duration for each of the study components was added to Section 2.1 of the final Recreation Evaluation Report.
42.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 42, section 3.4.2, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include a paragraph stating which sites within the Project Area are predicted to have maximum 2040 projected percent capacity utilization over 75%. Provide an additional table similar to Table 3-7 for downstream survey access sites for projected minimum and maximum 2040 recreation days. If data is unavailable to evaluate individual access points, evaluate minimum and maximum 2040 recreation days for the entire downstream Tallapoosa River Project Scope.	This information was added to the final report. It should be noted that this work was not part of the original study design conducted by Dr. Kevin Hunt.
43.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 45, section 4.1, first paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include the actual number of recreation days the study determined for Lake Harris Project Area during the study period specifying dates. In addition, Table 9 from Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires indicates that better parking lot, boat launch/ ramp and picnic tables/shelter were all highly recommended areas of improvement overall and should be included in the section.	The actual number of user days is presented in Section 3.2.2.1 on page 30 of the Recreation Evaluation Report. Regarding Table 9, comment noted.
44.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 45, section 4.1, second paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include how many Project sites evaluated require ADA compliance improvements.	Alabama Power is working to make all sites barrier-free, where feasible, and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), where appropriate. Alabama Power will continue to address this issue as part of Harris Project recreation PME measures.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
45.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 46, section 4.1, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, include a paragraph stating that despite being a targeted downstream recreation survey, in the Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey Report and the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey Report open-ended questions, lake water level was one of the top three topics commented on. Of those comments many requested either a reduced winter pool time period or a higher winter pool level.	Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and the analysis is presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report. The public component of the Tallapoosa River Recreation User survey allowed for responses beyond Tallapoosa River users and may include responses from Lake Harris recreationists with recommendations on the Harris Project operating curve.
46.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 46, section 4.1, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, in addition to hunting at WMA's, ADCNR has observed an increase for boating access and fishing access demands during the pandemic. This was observed by ADCNR at boating access sites, Public Fishing Lakes, and an increase in freshwater fishing licenses sold. ADCNR expects the increase of usage at Harris due to COVID-19 to have a lasting effect. Data from the National Marine Manufacturers Association indicates a significant increase in boating sales and personal watercraft sales were up 41% from 2019. associated with COVID-19.	Comment noted.
47.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 46, section 4.2, second paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, downstream effects on water level due to regulated flow from Harris dam diminish the further distance traveled downstream (see R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project: Draft Downstream Aquatic Habitat Report, Draft Water Quality Study Report and Final Downstream Release Alternatives Phase 1 Report). With over 80% of survey responses from recreation activities in less than 20% of the available tailrace habitat, the no significant relationship results between satisfaction and water level are strongly weighted and biased towards the lower 10 miles of the tailrace. In addition, the study period excluded spring flows and spring fishing season. This period has documented greater flow variations and may have increased water level checks through USGS gage or contacting Alabama Power for generation scheduling by recreational users during this time period.	Comment noted.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
48.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 46, section 4.2, third paragraph of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, provide an analysis, evaluation and conclusion of the open-ended comments in the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey Report and Tallapoosa River Downstream Recreation User Survey Report. State what percentage or number of comments contained negative statements regarding flow, access and erosion. In the Tallapoosa River Downstream Recreation User Survey Report, 4.0 Conclusions section, it states that the river-related open-ended comments are the most useful piece of information obtained from this study, although the results are briefly mentioned, not analyzed or discussed. It should be noted that a high percentage (>50%) of landowner comments were negative revolving around water levels and flow, in the open-ended comments.	Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and the analysis is presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report. Appendix G only presents a frequency analysis and does not draw direct conclusions from the responses.
49.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 47, section 4.3, of the Draft Recreation Evaluation Report, recommend providing and discussing conclusions of the additional table similar to Table 3-7 for downstream survey access sites for projected minimum and maximum 2040 recreation days requested. If data is unavailable to evaluate individual access points, evaluate minimum and maximum 2040 recreation days for the entire downstream Tallapoosa River Project Scope. This information will assist with evaluating future use and recreation needs downstream. Inclusion and discussion will further support page 13, section 1.1.2 goal 3, to identify future recreational needs relating to public recreation sites on Lake Harris and downstream of Harris Dam.	This information was added to the final report.
50.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 4, section 2.1, Table 1, of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, it appears that no Saturdays were pretested. Include a statement regarding why no Saturdays were included in the pretesting phase.	As noted in Table 1 of Appendix E, *Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey*, Dr. Kevin Hunt conducted sampling on the following Saturdays during the pretest phase: 3/2/19, 3/9/19, 3/16/19, 3/23/19, 3/31/19, 4/7/19, 4/13/19, 4/27/19.
51.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 7, section 2.2, fourth paragraph of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, provide a reason for not analyzing respondent open-ended responses. Suggest analyzing, providing results and including in discussion and conclusions sections.	Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and the analysis is presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
52.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 13, section 3.2, Table 2, of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, include Wadley Bridge into table and include an additional column for site river mile.	Wadley Bridge was not included in Table 2 of the *Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey*, *because* no user trips started at the Wadley Bridge. See response to comment number 18 regarding river miles.
53.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 13, section 3.2, Table 3, of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, include Malone Bridge into table and include an additional column for site river mile.	Malone Bridge was not included in Table 3 of the *Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey*, because no user trips ended at the Malone Bridge. See response to comment number 18 regarding river miles.
54.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 18, section 3.4, of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, when further analyzing the data, exclude respondents originating their trips at HBMP and include the recreational users that originated their trip upstream of HBMP. Provide if mean water level acceptability levels increased or declined depending on stream section. Analyzing survey results by river segment, in addition to overall is recommended. Water level effects from flow regulation are reduced the further distance from the dam traveled. In addition, creel surveys conducted during the spring fishing season when flows are documented to have higher variation and range, a correlation of water level (flow) and usage may be observed.	See Dr. Hunt's response to comment number 31 regarding results for individual river segments.
55.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 18, section 3.5, of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, Table 7 indicates a holiday in August, ADCNR is unaware of a state or national holiday during this month, specify which holiday was recognized during August.	Labor Day 2019 was on September 2, 2019. Dr. Hunt considered the entire holiday weekend as August 31 to September 2, 2019.
56.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 19, section 3.6, of the of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, include a statement with the total person-days of use on the river and the percentage of total person-days participation in combined recreation fishing activity during the study period. Include in conclusions and discussion the issue of potential bias in activity percentages due to the project period.	Alabama Power employed the methods from the FERC-approved *Recreation Evaluation Study Plan.* Any issues with study methodology should have been addressed as stakeholders commented during the study planning phase.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
57.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 28, section 3.9, of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, further analysis of Alabama Bass catch rates and flow should be conducted. Figure 15 of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report is not linear and should be reanalyzed.	See Dr. Hunt's response to comment number 36 regarding Figure 15.
58.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 29, section 4.0, of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, remove descriptive bias or pre-conceptual adjectives (e.g., anticipating, surprising, impressive, believe). Remove opinion statement at the end of first paragraph and replace with a statement providing and discussing error estimates in the results.	Dr. Hunt was retained to conduct the recreation studies on the Tallapoosa River based on his knowledge and experience with human dimensions and recreation. His input and opinion are valuable in providing context to the study results.
59.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 29, section 4.0, of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, include statement that overall survey results of this study are strongly weighted to the lower 10-mile section of the tailrace. Results from R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project: Draft Downstream Aquatic Habitat Report, Draft Water Quality Study Report and Final Downstream Release Alternatives Phase 1 Report indicate that this section has lower water level fluctuations, dissolved oxygen fluctuations and temperature fluctuations compared to upstream tailrace sections. In addition, a statement should be included that this study as designed has the potential to over sample on quality recreation days and under sample on poor recreation days. For example, if water levels flows were unacceptable on a survey day and the recreation user stayed home and did not visit the site to be interviewed, this information would not be recorded in the present survey design. Recommend analyzing and evaluating if vehicle counts and survey questionnaire participation numbers changed or correspond to water levels, in specific river segments during the survey duration period.	Alabama Power employed the methods from the FERC-approved *Recreation Evaluation Study Plan.* According to the survey results, most recreation users did not check gages prior to their recreation activity so water level should not impact recreation participation.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
60.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 29, section 4.0, of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, delete statements, "As such, catch rates for those anglers who had a target species for black basses show the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam is a quality fishery producing catch rates at the upper end or better of standard fisheries management goals. Most southern fisheries management agencies I have worked closely with in my career either have a statewide management goal of 0.5 black bass per hour catch rate, or a goal of between 0.5 to 1.0 per hour catch rate when they have enough biological information to make goals for individual water bodies. Observed hourly catch rates for those who targeted black basses in this study ranged from 0.70 (Tallapoosa redeye bass), to above 1.0 (bass general, Alabama/spotted bass, and largemouth bass). As such, catch rates for those anglers who had a target species for black basses show the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam is a quality fishery producing catch rates at the upper end or better of standard fisheries management goals." These statements include unsupported opinions without references and make general assumptions outside the scope of results presented in this study.	Dr. Hunt was retained to conduct the recreation studies on the Tallapoosa River based on his knowledge and experience with human dimensions and recreation. His input and opinion are valuable in providing context to the study results.
61.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 30, section 4.0, of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, compare acceptability ratings and average daily flow on the least used segments of river.	Alabama Power employed the methods from the FERC-approved *Recreation Evaluation Study Plan*. See Dr. Hunt's response to comment number 31 regarding results for individual river segments.
62.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 31, section 4.0, of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, remove opinion statements outside of study objectives regarding minimum flow "As a result of these five findings, any possible changes in generation schedule by Alabama Power, or implementation of minimum flows being considered in the broader study process are definitely within the range of flows experienced by rivers in this study, and thus would most likely not affect effort, acceptability ratings, satisfaction ratings, or catch and harvest rates appreciably." Also, this broader study process statement fails to note that the study sample was primarily weighted towards the lower segment of the tailrace.	Dr. Hunt was retained to conduct the recreation studies on the Tallapoosa River based on his knowledge and experience with human dimensions and recreation. His input and opinion are valuable in providing context to the study results.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
63.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 31, section 4.0, of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, it states, "However, there was still about 20 percent of recreational users who rated the water levels on their trip as "marginal" or "unacceptable", so I anticipate there will always be a few people who may comment or complain about water levels." This statement should be reevaluated after thoroughly analyzing and quantifying the open-ended comments from the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey Report and the Tallapoosa River Downstream Recreation User Survey Report. Negative comments regarding flow were one of the top three topics addressed, pending further analysis.	Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and the analysis is presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report. These results were not incorporated into other scientific analysis.
64.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 31, section 4.0, of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, include discussion and conclusions of respondent open-ended responses.	Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and the analysis is presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report. Appendix G only presents a frequency analysis and does not draw direct conclusions from the responses.
65.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 10, section 4.0, of the Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey Report, it states, "A thorough review of the open-ended comments provided by respondents…" provide this thorough review and analysis in the results. Provide what percentage of open-ended comments are positive or negative in nature. Include what percentage of the open-ended comments refer to Lake Harris water levels, what do overall consensus of Lake Harris water levels comments recommend. When parsing out the open-ended comments about river-related recreation, include what topics were most frequently mentioned and if they were negative or positive in nature. When evaluating open-ended comments without an in-depth analysis, it appears that in addition to lake level dissatisfaction, many respondents indicate negative views on flow management, river access, erosion, poor fishing, flood control, and generation schedule accuracy and availability. A thorough review should be completed to further evaluate this useful data.	Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and the analysis is presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
66.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 10, section 4.0, of the Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey Report, note additional differences and comparisons to the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report. For example, over 50% of respondents to the Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey Report noted they participated in their favorite river-related recreational activity in river segments upstream of HBMP. This result seems to contrast the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report which indicated low starting and ending boat ramp frequency and survey participation from these upstream river segments above HBMP.	See Dr. Hunt's response to comment number 31 regarding results for individual river segments.
67.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 14, section 3.0, of the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey Report, include a thorough review to summarize and quantify the open-ended comments. A sentiment analysis for key subjects similar to the Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires should be included.	Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and the analysis presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report.
68.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 14, section 4.0, of the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey Report, include conclusion statements for the results that were underlined and in bold in the results.	Dr. Hunt developed the conclusions and addressed the appropriate measures and results.
69.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 15, section 4.0, of the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey Report, remove descriptive bias or pre-conceptual adjectives (e.g., hoped). Similar water levels and time periods would allow for survey comparisons but the results also may indicate that the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey conducted in part of 2019 had too restrictive of time frame to fully represent a range of water level (cfs) conditions that the downstream river is subjected to. This opposite argument should be noted in this section and be included in the conclusions section of the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey.	Dr. Hunt was retained to conduct the recreation studies on the Tallapoosa River based on his knowledge and experience with human dimensions and recreation. His input and opinion are valuable in providing context to the study results. Alabama Power employed the methods from the FERC-approved *Recreation Evaluation Study Plan*.
70.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 15, section 4.0, of the Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey Report, include conclusions of the thorough review and analysis of the open-ended comments.	Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and the analysis is presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report. Appendix G only presents a frequency analysis and does not draw direct conclusions from the responses.

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71.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 22, Table 9, of the Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires, add an asterisks and caveat that Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform is not a boat ramp and does not have a boat launch/ramp.	Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform is noted as "Fishing Access" by Southwick Associates in Table 1 of *Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires* report.
72.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On page 23, Discussion section of the Lake Harris Public Access User Counts and Public Access Questionnaires, expand discussion highlighting specific and overall results. Include potential areas of bias and improvements for future user count and public access questionnaires. Include discussion of open-ended comments from the Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey Report related to Lake Harris issues (e.g., lake levels and boating safety). Provide an appendix letter to reference these comments. Discuss and note if any of the access user counts or questionnaires were administered during large angling tournament events.	Southwick Associates developed and reported the study conclusions as the recreation experts conducting this portion of the study. Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and the analysis is presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report. There were no large events noted or observed during the recreation evaluation study.
73.	**ADCNR**	9/30/20	On Appendix B, Lake Harris Recreation Site Inventory and Condition Assessment, make the fonts and dimensions smaller to combine, tables B-1, B-3 and B-4 into one table if possible. Separate fishing pier data column into launching pier and fishing pier. Combine Lakeside Marina and Lakeside Marina Campground row. Include an asterisks and caveat for the sites that are not part of the Recreation Evaluation Study and outside of the Project Boundary.	Comments regarding fonts and dimensions are noted. Regarding Lakeside Marina and Lakeside Marina Campground, Alabama Power processed these sites differently as the purpose, ownership, and management for the sites are different. Revisions to Table B-1 noting distinctions between fishing and launching piers were added to the final report.
74.	**Donna Matthews**	9/30/20	**Regarding the May-Oct 2019 survey. (Appendix E)** Boaters who want an enjoyable trip from Malone put-in immediately before a water release from Harris Dam in order to 'catch the wave' of rising water to ride it downriver. Unless the creel clerks surveyed at Malone within 1-2 hr of water release, census counts would fail to register significant river use. The lack of public put-in and take-out access is a contributor to the depressed census in the upper river reaches below the dam. The closer to the dam, the more dependent satisfactory river experiences are to variations in flow. Unfortunately this data from independent, self guided and river savvy paddlers was not captured.	Recreation Clerks at the Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform were asked to note observations of anyone launching a kayak or canoe. No instances were observed. In addition, according to Dr. Hunt, "This group of river savvy users is likely so small, that their impact to total effort is minimal. And, if this group of recreationists is that in tune to the releases to target their effort to the "bump", I'd expect that the river level would be acceptable to them on that day, or they wouldn't have gone". It should be noted that Alabama Power is investigating boatable flows and water depth downstream of Harris Dam as part of the Phase 2 analysis for the Downstream Release Alternatives study.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
75.	**Donna Matthews**	9/30/20	The inability of downstream river users, especially those guided by local outfitters, to take notice of and make meaningful comment on river flow makes sense. People put themselves into the hands of experienced guides because of their lack of experience. A good outfitter is successful if clients have positive experiences. Additionally, the effects of water release from Harris dam are attenuated before the bolus reaches Horseshoe Bend. Forty miles downstream, the greater baseline water levels widen the window of optimal launch times.	Comment noted.
76.	**Donna Matthews**	9/30/20	A majority of survey data, 70%, (p.152/738) comes from people floating from HSB to Jaybird Landing, a section containing more water from the addition of tributaries, at the extreme southern end of the Project Area. The potential for river recreation upstream of Horseshoe Bend remains untapped largely from limited public access. There is every reason to expect "if you build it, they will come." With an eye cast toward future improvement, it would be nice to see tabulated results of the open ended question asked (p. 183/738) from the Tallapoosa River User Survey.	Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and its analysis is presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report. Alabama Power will consult with HAT 5 members and present the proposal for any recreation upgrades and new sites in the PLP.
77.	**Donna Matthews**	9/30/20	**Appendices F & G** Regarding upstream landowners who report not frequently consulting the USGS gage at Wadley: this is not likely an indication of lack of interest or awareness, but most probably a reflection a behavior so ingrained it may not often reach consciousness. It can be likened to a familiar pothole-filled road driven daily. The driver habitually drives to avoid the pothole, but might not be able to report the details characterizing the road surface. As noted (p. 213/738), 90% of property owner respondents have owned their property for > 10 years, the mean time of ownership being > 20 years. Given this level of familiarity, observations of river levels and flow are as integral to one's daily experience and notice as are the clouds in the sky.	Comment noted.
78.	**Donna Matthews**	9/30/20	While not being able to claim scientific rigor as noted by Dr. Hunt, the nearly 50% response rate to a mailed letter reported in Appendix F and the 291 discreet responses submitted online by Survey Monkey in Appendix G is impressive. This would indicate a high level of interest in matters related to APC and the Tallapoosa River downstream of the dam. It would be interesting to collate answers to questions presented both appendices. This might prove useful. Likewise, tabulating the responses to the open ended questions of both groups would allow easier viewing of the aggregate data for clearer interpretation.	Open ended comments were analyzed by Kleinschmidt and its analysis is presented in Appendix G of the final Recreation Evaluation Report.

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79.	**Donna Matthews**	9/30/20	**Two areas of recreation safety remain unaddressed.** Absence of Fish Consumption Advisories at all launch and parking locations is a dangerous omission. https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/tox/assets/al-fish-advisory-2020.pdf. 2020 data indicate, anglers eating their catch from the Harris Reservoir should limit consumption of 3 species of fish. Blue and channel catfish are each limited to 2 meals/month. Striped bass are limited to 1 meal/ month. If APC is to provide lighting, garbage pickup and sanitary facilities at launch sites, equally important is public signage to alert the public of the dangers of overconsumption of certain fish species.	Fish consumption advisories are addressed by appropriate state agencies.
80.	**Donna Matthews**	9/30/20	Unplanned or sudden release of water from Harris Dam is a danger to human lives recreating on the river below the dam. As noted in previous comments, the current method of posting discharge activity unacceptable. The website is frequently an unreliable indicator of what is happening on the river. A cell phone text based system will provide alerts and up-to-the minute data regarding activity at the dam. An automated system would text alerts to opted-in river users when variations in dam operation occur. Why should the river user be required to seek river information from USGS (especially given spotty cell service) when text systems are more reliable? It would be a hugely popular and a much needed safety feature.	Public safety will be addressed in the PLP or Final License Application.

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81.	**Donna Matthews**	9/30/20	**Worthy Projects for Consideration** *A public day use picnic and swimming area with pavilion and restrooms is sorely needed on the east side of the lake. It is a shame many people without a home on the lake or a boat cannot enjoy lake recreation in a safe, maintained public space. It is a huge unmet need. *Many paddlers request additional campsites approachable only by boat to be established on the lake. *Likewise, the ASRT (Alabama Scenic River Trail) campsites currently in existence along the river would benefit from construction of 3 sided shelters with wooden floors for safety and protection from stormy (flooding) weather. Additional campsite development on APC property along the river is also desirable. *Future recreational development with partner hiking and birding groups to establish hiking and birding trails on APC project lands not open to hunting would enhance the property habitat and user enjoyment.	Alabama Power will consult with HAT 5 members and present the proposal for any recreation upgrades and new sites in the PLP. Regarding hiking and birding trails on Alabama Power Harris Project lands, it should be noted that trails are offered at Flat Rock Park and at the Preserves at Little Fox. There are 1.2 miles of trails at Flat Rock Park and the Preserve Trails at Little Fox include portions of the Piedmont Plateau Birding Trail. The entire trail system at Little Fox totals 5 miles. See the trail maps at the end of this attachment.
82.	**Donna Matthews**	9/30/20	If my understanding of this report is correct, it represents work completed to achieve Goals 1 & 2 set forth on p. 18/738. This information coupled with statistics from government agencies will set the course for achieving Goal 3. Hopefully, decisions to be made regarding what improvements APC will take in future have yet to be finalized.	Alabama Power will consult with HAT 5 members and present the proposal for any recreation upgrades and new sites in the PLP.
83.	**Donna Matthews**	9/30/20	Any model created for a HAT topic not running a scenario using predictive climate change data is woefully short sighted. Before the end of the next project period, measurable effects of climate change will be apparent in the southeastern US. This includes more extreme weather events such increased rainfall during certain seasons followed by deeper drought in others. Rain events resulting in deluge into the lake will invariably affect lake levels and discharges from the dam. It is prudent to begin anticipating the changes to come. Of course recreation will be affected as will dam operations.	Comment Noted.
84.	**Alabama Rivers Alliance (ARA)**	9/30/2020	**I. Increased River Access Upstream of Germany's Ferry** Adequate public access to the Tallapoosa River is essential to enable recreation and enjoyment of the river. Currently, in the span of approximately 44 river miles from Harris Dam to Horseshoe Bend, there are only two true public access points, the	As identified in Table 1-2 of the draft Recreation Evaluation Report, Malone Bridge and Wadley Bridge are canoe portages. Use of these sites was part of the FERC-approved study methodology.

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			Germany's Ferry boat launch and the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park boat launch. For many miles below Harris, no real public access exists. Figure 1-4 of the Draft Report shows these locations. While boaters and fisherman and other recreationists do access the river above Germany's Ferry, they must do so over private property. The Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report produced by Dr. Hunt (Appendix E to the Draft Report) mischaracterizes Wadley Bridge and Malone Bridge as having boat ramps and public access. Those are unimproved sites where access is dependent upon the permission of generous landowners who allow (but could choose not to allow) boaters and fishermen to put-in on their properties. There are no concrete boat ramps at these locations, no amenities, no maintenance is conducted--just rough put-ins. The results of the downstream user surveys described in the Draft Report make clear that river recreationists want more public access points. Responses to the downstream user surveys showed that 78 percent of recreationists on the Tallapoosa requested more access points. Further, the results of the Tallapoosa River Recreation User Experience Summary on Table 3-5 show that over 46 percent of users either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that there is sufficient public access downstream of Harris for recreational purposes. It is also worth noting that the user experience summary in Table 3-5 reveals that over 62 percent of river recreationists agree or strongly agree that bank erosion is a concern along the Tallapoosa. The two communities most affected by the dam and its disruptive releases, Malone and Wadley, do not have improved public access. Alabama Rivers Alliance recommends that public access points be created in Malone and Wadley to increase recreation opportunities on the river and benefit the communities that have been most impacted by the dam and must continue to live with its effects. Through continued HAT meetings and other outreach, Licensee should consult with stakeholders in those communities, local government, river outfitters, fishing guides, and landowners to identify suitable locations for access and necessary improvements and amenities.	Alabama Power will consult with HAT 5 members and present the proposal for any recreation upgrades and new sites in the PLP. Bank erosion is addressed in another Harris Project relicensing study.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
85.	**ARA**	9/30/2020	**II. Lack of Public Access Above Germany's Ferry Skews Survey Data** As reported in the Downstream Tallapoosa River Public Access User Count and Survey Report, nearly 70 percent of all recreational trips on the Tallapoosa originated from the Horseshoe Bend boat ramp, followed by 12 percent starting at Germany's Ferry, and 10 percent at Jaybird Landing. No individuals interviewed started a trip at Wadley. Less than 1 percent of river users surveyed started their trips at Malone. Additionally, the river outfitter referenced in the User Count and Survey Report believed that 80 percent of recreation activity he observed on the river occurred from Germany's Ferry to Jaybird Landing. The fact that the vast majority of individuals surveyed for this report were recreating in an area over 30 river miles from Harris dam skews the data and conclusions of the study because releases from the dam largely attenuate by the time the water reaches Horseshoe Bend. River recreationists at this end of the project boundary do not experience the severe fluctuations in water levels that recreationists upriver experience. Greater user satisfaction with water levels and instream flow in areas further from the dam with more stable flows is unsurprising and does not capture the full range of recreationist satisfaction. Section 4.2 of the Draft Report concludes that, "Regarding water level and recreation on the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam, the water level does not appear to have any appreciable effect on recreation." This conclusion does not fully represent satisfaction with water levels and instream flow in areas above Germany's Ferry because the interviews were so heavily skewed towards recreationists at the southernmost end of the project boundary. Of course, most recreationists available to be interviewed would be found in this area because it is where public access is available. The final Recreation Evaluation Study Report should contextualize where recreationists were surveyed and not extrapolate satisfaction levels from the Horseshoe Bend area to the river above Germany's Ferry. We are concerned about the Draft Report's conclusions that water levels do not appear to have an effect on recreation and that the majority of recreationists found all water levels acceptable. While	See Dr. Hunt's response to comment number 31 regarding results for individual river segments.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
			the data may prove this out around Horseshoe Bend where a large majority of the participants surveyed were recreating in the area with the most attenuated and stable flows, it does not follow that water levels have no effect on recreation satisfaction upriver.	
86.	**ARA**	9/30/2020	**III. Essential Public Health Information for Fishermen on Harris Lake** Fishing is one of the most popular recreation activities both downstream of Harris and on the reservoir. Many anglers eat the fish they catch from the reservoir; however, there are currently no signs alerting the public of the risks of eating contaminated fish containing elevated levels of mercury from Harris Lake. Alabama's Fish Consumption Advisory Report for 2020, which is published by the Alabama Department of Public Health in partnership with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, lists the Harris Reservoir as containing three species of popular sport fish (Blue catfish, Channel catfish, and Spotted bass) that contain unsafe levels of mercury. The Fish Consumption Advisory Report recommends that consumption of these fish be limited to one or two meals per month due to mercury levels. Yet there are no signs at Harris Lake informing the public of the risks of eating these contaminated fish or to limit or avoid consumption. In order to promote safe and responsible recreation at Harris, Alabama Rivers Alliance requests the addition of signs clearly explaining these consumption advisories at the reservoir. Licensee should work with stakeholders and state agencies to design signage that conveys the proper information to anglers of all literacy levels and to determine the best locations for sign installations.	Fish consumption advisories are addressed by appropriate state agencies.

Comment Number	Commenting Entity	Date of Comment	Comment on Draft Recreation Evaluation Report[1]	Alabama Power Response
87.	**Dr. Mark S. Parrish, COO New Journeys Consulting, LLC**	10/3/20	I am writing in reference to the current R.L. Harris relicensing review, and specifically in reference to the need for public access recreational opportunities for visitors who do not have private access to the lake. There is a wealth of recreational opportunities on the R.L. Harris lake, however, there are few public day use facilities for visitors to the area who do not have private lake-front access. As described on Table 2-1 Recreation Site Inventory Summary, there are numerous boat launches with docks for fishing, however, there is only 1 commercial campground, and no public access with picnic, swimming, hiking facilities other than Flat Rock and the R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area. All of these recreational facilities would enhance day-use opportunities at the lake, thus providing economic opportunities for local businesses. Additionally, one only needs to drive around the lake to see that use of the boat ramps is robust, and that the parking areas are consistently overtaxed with numerous vehicles/trailers parked on the shoulder of the roads adjacent to the boat ramps. This situation is a safety issue and there needs to be a high priority for boat ramp parking expansion. Finally, APR has an adequate inventory of project lands which could be utilized to proactively address the need for additional public access day-use facilities. APR has an opportunity to build community support through partnering with community organizations, local governments, businesses and other stakeholders to pursue the aforementioned initiatives.	Alabama Power will consult with HAT 5 members and present the proposal for any recreation upgrades and new sites in the PLP.

FLAT ROCK PARK ATTENDANCE

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
MAY[1]	1454	2736	713	2627	3860	5359	4291	4551	4048	5702	3443	5911	7773	3721	2591	4404	5244	5734	4631	6322	6938	7754	5012	3599
MEMORIAL DAY[2]	547	412	314	672	685	1249	910	1226	778	1348	131	1705	866	1500	647	762	1502	1337	1439	1783	1007	2347	1306	406
JUNE	3987	3855	2006	7450	7714	9840	8554	9995	10,472	9640	12,143	13,291	12,613	14,357	14,893	13,882	11,776	9,966	12,126	11,322	13359	10345	5419	12,377
JULY	4978	3650	5416	6574	10,917	12,134	13,448	10,931	10,707	11,613	11,064	11,639	8,391	8,867	8,468	10,264	7,531	9,622	6,535	10,014	10782	13310	8836	7705
July 4th[2]	843	1061	1021	975	1045	1655	2787	1429	1161	1395	1491	1927	1552	1276	1683	1,424	813	1386	138	1136	722	1261	1284	1901
AUGUST	1192	1633	1646	3061	6502	3411	2820	5685	5560	4116	3816	3478	3895	3673	3322	3,768	3090	3383	4274	5154	5130	3424	3233	2982
SEPTEMBER[1]	547	174	387	1661	1581	1223	901	1891	1686	2244	1951	1967	1450	522	517	744	549	1110	1452	1316	1486	3000	1174	1894
LABOR DAY[2]	168	22	305	531	626	440	122	615	923	155	654	681	478	205	290	425	61	157	238	678	527	736	520	911
TOTAL	**12,158**	**12,148**	**10,168**	**21,373**	**30,574**	**31,967**	**30,014**	**33,053**	**32,473**	**33,315**	**32,417**	**36,286**	**34,122**	**34,121**	**32,411**	**35,673**	**30,566**	**29,815**	**29,018**	**34,128**	**37,695**	**37,833**	**23,674**	**31,775**

[1] Flat Rock Park is only opened on weekends during the months of May (before Memorial Day) and September (after Labor Day).

[2] Attendance for the holiday is for the holiday day only and is already included in the monthly total.

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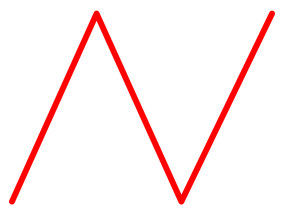
FLAT ROCK PARK



TRAIL



Rolling Rock

1.2 Miles



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LITTLE FOX CREEK



TRAILS

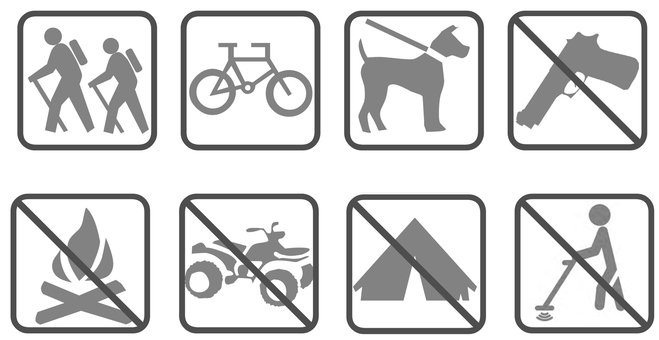
FOX TROT
3.33 Miles

MEGAWATT TROT
0.78 Miles

THE DISTRIBUTOR
0.25 Miles

POLLINATOR'S PLEASURE
0.70 Miles

BARRIER FREE WOODEN WALKWAY
0.14 Miles



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