# DRAFT RECREATION PLAN

R.L. HARRIS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

FERC No. 2628





Prepared by:

# **Alabama Power Company**

and

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# **GLOSSARY OF RECRATION TERMS AND DEFINITIONS<sup>1</sup>**

TERM	DEFINITION
ADCNR	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADEM	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Alabama Power	Alabama Power Company
AMP	Alabama Marine Patrol (formerly the Alabama Marine Police)
Barrier-free	Pertaining or referring to structural or architectural design that does not impede use by individuals with special physical needs.
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
ВМР	Best Management Practice(s) – On site actions generally taken by property owners to lessen impacts on a particular resource which is the result of direct or indirect use of that resource.
Boat ramp/launch	A slipway or launch located on the shore, used to transfer a vessel from land to water and vice versa.
СВМР	Construction Best Management Practices
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
Consulting agencies	Alabama Power has consulted with USACE, ADCNR, USFWS, and other interested stakeholders regarding the Recreation Plan for Harris.
Developed Project recreation site	Refers to Project recreation sites that have formal facilities.
Erosion	The scouring of land or soil by the action of wind, water, or ice.
FERC	The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is an independent agency that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil. FERC is responsible for licensing nonfederal hydropower projects in the U.S.
FLA	Final License Application
ft	Feet
Habitat	The locality or external environment in which a plant or animal normally lives and grows.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Glossary of Recreation Terms and Definitions is used in all of Alabama Power's Recreation Plans for its hydroelectric projects. All terms included here may or may not be included in the Harris Hydroelectric Project Recreation Plan.

TERM	DEFINITION
Licensee	Alabama Power Company, which holds the R. L. Harris Hydroelectric Project license.
msl	Mean sea level
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPS	National Park Service
ORV	Off-road vehicle
Pier	A structure, generally providing recreational access from land to water.
Project	The lands, equipment and facilities necessary to operate a FERC licensed hydroelectric facility.
Project boundary	A line established by FERC to define the lands, waters, and structures needed to operate a licensed hydroelectric project.
Project lands	All lands within the FERC-designated project boundary.
Project recreation sites	Developed and undeveloped recreation sites located within the Project boundary that are needed to support water-based, project-related recreation and public access to project lands and waters and that the FERC license order designates as project recreation sites.
Recreation amenity	The developed elements (e.g., structures, trails, etc.) that define the spectrum of recreation opportunities at each recreation site.
Recreation facility	Includes both infrastructure (i.e., parking, restrooms, access paths, docks, etc.) and recreation amenities (i.e., boat launching areas, picnic areas, camp sites, trails, etc.).
Recreation infrastructure	Includes those physical elements that support recreation opportunities/experiences and are managed by the licensee. Infrastructure may include parking, restrooms, access paths, courtesy docks, etc.
Reservoir	A manmade lake into which water flows and is stored for future use that is controlled in accordance with the FERC license and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manual, if appropriate.
Relicensing	The administrative proceeding in which FERC decides whether and on what terms to issue a new license to a licensee for an existing hydroelectric project at the expiration of an existing license.
Relicensing stakeholders	All groups, agencies, and individuals that participated in the relicensing of the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project.

TERM	DEFINITION
Renew Our Rivers	A large-scale, grassroots, state-wide cleanup project with tens of thousands of participating volunteers, including members of homeowner and boat owner associations, environmental groups, Alabama Power employees, schools, and civic organizations.
RV	Recreational Vehicle
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
Undeveloped Project recreation site	Refers to Project recreation sites with no formal facilities.
USACE	U. S. Army Corp. of Engineers
USFWS	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power) owns and operates the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (Harris Project) Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2628 licensed by FERC. The FERC Project Boundary encloses two distinct geographic areas, described in Section 1.1 Project Description.

#### 1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Harris Project is an existing, FERC licensed major hydroelectric facility owned and operated by Alabama Power. 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. The Harris reservoir is located on the Tallapoosa River, near Lineville, Alabama. The Harris Project also contains lands within the James D. Martin-Skyline Wildlife Management Area (Skyline WMA) located in Jackson County, Alabama (Figure 1-1 and Figure 1-2).

In the region surrounding Lake Harris, there are many reservoirs that provide recreation opportunities. These reservoirs include Martin, Yates, and Thurlow downstream of Lake Harris on the Tallapoosa River; Weiss, Neely Henry, Logan Martin, Lay, Mitchell, and Jordan to the west of Lake Harris on the Coosa River; and West Point Lake located approximately 30 miles southeast of Lake Harris. A variety of public recreation facilities and opportunities are available within an approximate 50-mile radius of Lake Harris. Opportunities and facilities include over 70 recreational vehicle (RV) parks and campgrounds within 50 miles of Lake Harris with 2 campgrounds within 10 miles, 6 campgrounds within 10 to 25 miles, and 64 campgrounds within 25 to 50 miles. Altogether, these facilities provide over 3,700 RV sites and 550 campsites in the Harris Project vicinity. Most of these campgrounds are located to the west and northwest of the Harris Project, near Talladega, Alabama, although some are located near Auburn, Alabama, at Lake Martin, and West Point Lake. In addition to the campgrounds, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) manages 15 boat launches within 50 miles of the Harris Project (ADCNR 2016b). The Talladega National Forest and Cheaha State Park are located to the northwest of Lake Harris. The Talladega National Forest covers approximately 392,567 acres along the southern edge of the Appalachian Mountains and includes the 7,245-acre Cheaha Wilderness Preserve. Recreational opportunities within Talladega National Forest include hiking, off-road vehicle (ORV) and mountain bike trails, camping, scenic viewing, and

hunting opportunities (U.S. Forest Service 2016). The 2,799-acre Cheaha State Park is located on the top of Cheaha Mountain, which features the highest point in Alabama. Recreation facilities at the park include hiking and ORV trails, a day use area, cabins and a lodge, campgrounds, and a restaurant (Alabama State Parks 2016).

#### 1.1.1 HARRIS PROJECT

Harris reservoir is the 9,870-acre reservoir (Harris Reservoir) created by the Harris dam. Harris reservoir is located on the Tallapoosa River, near Lineville, Alabama. The lands adjoining the reservoir total approximately 7,542 acres and are included in the FERC Project Boundary (Figure 1-1). This includes land to 795-feet mean sea level (msl), as well as natural undeveloped areas, hunting lands, prohibited access areas, recreational areas, and all islands.

#### 1.1.2 SKYLINE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

The Harris Project also contains 15,063 acres of land within the Skyline Wildlife Management Area (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 2016a). There are no Project recreation sites located at Skyline, but it continues to provide public hunting opportunities and other outdoor recreation activities.

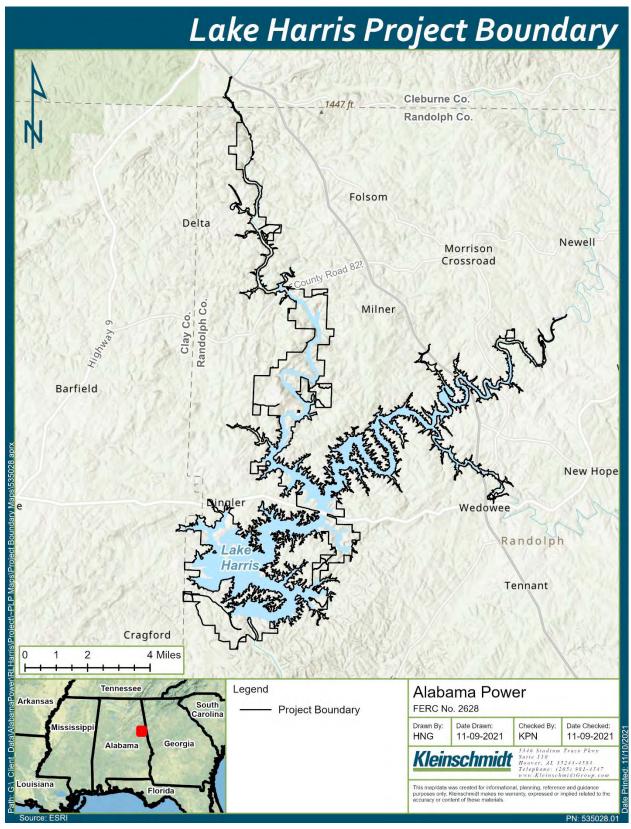


FIGURE 1-1 LAKE HARRIS PROJECT BOUNDARY

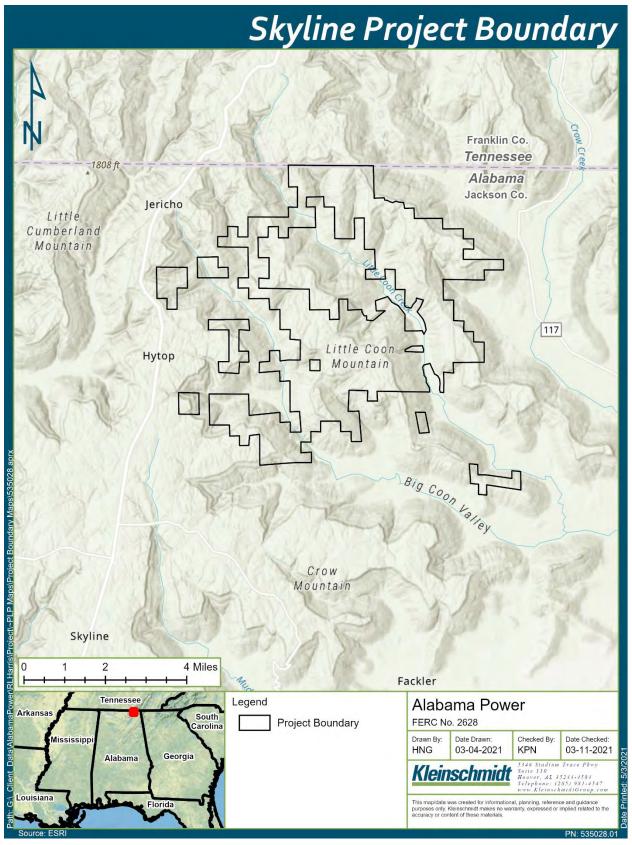


FIGURE 1-2 SKYLINE PROJECT BOUNDARY

#### 1.2 RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

Due to the importance of relicensing consultation, the R.L. Harris Project Recreation Plan (Recreation Plan) includes a discussion of Alabama Power's recreation planning processes (Section 3.0), including a provision to review and update the Recreation Plan as required by FERC staff<sup>2</sup>. The Recreation Plan also provides a description of each Harris Project recreation site (including acreage of each site), operation and maintenance of the site, and site development.

#### This Recreation Plan includes:

- A description and as-built drawings of all existing project recreation facilities (all amenities and associated infrastructure);
- A description of, and conceptual drawings and specifications for, a new day use park on Lake Harris and a canoe/kayak put-in at the Harris tailrace;
- A provision to operate and maintain the existing Project recreation sites that includes: (a) the hours of operation; (b) signs at each project recreation site, as specified in 18 C.F.R. section 8.2 of the Commission's regulations; and (c) trash removal;
- A description of soil erosion and sediment control measures to be used where ground disturbing activities are proposed, including bio-engineering techniques (e.g., willow and wetland seeding) to stabilize the shoreline;
- A discussion of how the needs of the disabled will be considered in the planning and design of the recreation facilities; and
- A description of the Recreation Plan update process, including provisions for reporting recommendations to FERC and consulting agencies.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> FERC comments were received on the Proposed License Plan on October 1, 2021. Comment #6 indicated that the Recreation Plan was to be included in the Final License Application.

#### 2.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE RECREATION PLAN

As part of the Harris Project relicensing process, Alabama Power consulted with resource agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Lake Harris and downstream property owners, and the public<sup>3</sup>, to develop and implement a FERC-approved Recreation Evaluation Study Plan, that included three primary goals: 1) to gather baseline information on the existing Project recreational use and capacity; 2) to understand recreation use in the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam; and 3) to identify future recreation needs. The study also included recreation use at Skyline.

The study (Kleinschmidt 2020) estimated current recreation use and the current and projected use capacity at Harris Project recreation sites, analyzed user satisfaction with conditions at existing recreation sites, and summarized 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).

Kleinschmidt (2020) also calculated total visitation (effort) and daily effort levels by user groups in the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam. As part of this effort, Kleinschmidt (2020) studied how flows in the Tallapoosa River downstream of Harris Dam affect recreational users and their activity. User groups included bank and boat (primarily canoe/kayak) anglers, recreational boaters, float tube users, and those who may be using access points for swimming. Finally, landowners and the general public were surveyed regarding their recreational use of the Tallapoosa River.

The final goal of the study was to identify future recreational needs relating to public recreation sites on Lake Harris and downstream of Harris Dam. This objective was accomplished by 1) estimating future recreational use of existing Project recreation sites; 2) identifying potential future needs for new Project recreation sites and facilities; 3) analyzing user input on needs for new Project recreation sites and facilities; and 4) analyzing public input on Tallapoosa River access and facilities.

The *Recreation Evaluation Report* (Kleinschmidt 2020) informed the decision to develop two additional recreation sites: one on Lake Harris and one at the Tailrace Fishing Pier. Details of these additional facilities are provided in Section 5.0.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This group was identified as the Harris Action Team (HAT) 5 – Recreation.

# 3.0 THE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROCESS FOR RECREATION PLANNING

Alabama Power has developed a process for use during the license term and has termed it the "the Adaptive Management Process". The Adaptive Management Process includes:

- Examining pertinent recreation use data;
- Applying Recreation Solution Principles, as described in Section 3.2, to the recreation use analysis and incorporating other pertinent information;
- Establishing recreational needs, if any, for each Project recreation site; and
- Continued consultation with stakeholders on Plan updates.

#### 3.1 Recreation Use Data

FERC previously required that licensees collect recreation use data at licensed hydropower projects on a 6 year rotation and report that data via the Licensed Hydropower Development Recreation Report or Form 80. While these data were the most relevant pertaining to recreation use at a specific development, other information is considered in recreation planning at the Harris Project, including the *Recreation Evaluation Report* (Kleinschmidt 2020), population projections, the Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and other data, as appropriate.

Project recreation sites had an estimated 227,358 visitor days in 2019. Highway 48 Bridge and Wedowee Marine South contributed the largest proportions of visitor-days with the highest percentage of utilization, at 84 percent and 79 percent, respectively (Southwick Associates 2020). Flat Rock Park had the third highest number of recreation days in 2019, although it was only open May 26 through September 15 in 2019 (Southwick Associates 2020). Percent capacity utilization for each Project recreation site in 2019 is included in Table 3-1.

TABLE 3-1 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 2020

Recreation downstream of Harris Dam on the Tallapoosa River was studied using several methodologies, including public access user counts and surveys, attendance records collected from a river outfitter, downstream landowner surveys, and recreation user surveys (online) (Kleinschmidt 2020).

Data collected during the public access user counts 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 2020). Sixty-one percent of all Tallapoosa River trips ended at Jaybird Landing and 24 percent ended at Horseshoe Bend (Hunt 2020). 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 2020).

Alabama Power reviewed the 2013-2018 Alabama SCORP, published in May of 2014 (Table 3-2). Most outdoor recreation at the Harris Project consists of three activities:

power boating freshwater, fishing freshwater bank, and freshwater beach. These activities ranked 18<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, respectively, in terms of the number of people participating in Alabama. Other notable popular activities available at the Harris Project include walking for pleasure (ranked 1<sup>st</sup>) and trail hiking (ranked 12<sup>th</sup>). Alabama Power is aware that the two types of sites that receive the most use are those with multiple day use facilities (e.g., freshwater beach, walking trails, and active recreation) and those with tailwater fishing. These findings correspond roughly with findings published in the 2013-2018 SCORP.

Additional data suggests that 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 3-3). Because population growth forecasts are routinely used as part of forecasting future recreational demands, growth in demand for recreation opportunities would be expected. However, given that population growth forecasts have trended downward in some areas of the Harris Project, use of these data should be tempered with the information presented in this report regarding recreation use at the Project and within the state of Alabama before making any assumptions about the need for additional facilities at the Harris Project.

Table 3-2 State of Alabama Population Participating in Types of Outdoor Recreation

Statewide Rec	reation Demand	by Participation	on Rate a	and Frequency of Pa	articipation	
Population Participating			Annual Frequency Per Participant			
Recreation Activity	Number	Percent	Rank	Number	Average	Rank
Walking for pleasure	3,108,516	65.3	1	329,829,271	106.1	1
Freshwater beach	2,607,649	54.8	2	19,991,246	7.7	39
Pool swimming	2,474,338	52.0	3	126,867,813	51.3	8
Football	2,085,357	43.8	4	98,252,234	47.1	10
Visit historical sites	1,981,090	41.6	5	10,045,900	5.1	40
Saltwater beach	1,817,308	38.2	6	124,160,181	68.3	4
Fishing freshwater bank	1,497,363	31.5	7	60,104,000	40.1	16
Outdoor basketball	1,000,781	21.0	8	53,344,538	53.3	6
Camping developed sites	956,979	20.1	9	8,797,828	9.2	38
Soccer	856,044	18.0	10	88,024,460	102.8	2
Fishing freshwater boat	838,904	17.6	11	33,164,801	39.5	17
Trail hiking	750,348	15.8	12	26,333,446	35.1	22
Tennis	734,160	15.4	13	33,224,790	45.3	13
Small game hunting	695,595	14.6	14	16,045,826	23.1	28
ATV trail	683,693	14.4	15	36,381,393	53.2	7
Jogging	683,216	14.4	16	51,094,113	74.8	3
Driving for pleasure	611,324	12.8	17	34,627,408	56.6	5
Power boating freshwater	540,860	11.4	18	15,081,705	27.9	25
Gardening	531,814	11.2	19	22,907,985	43.1	14
Canoeing/rafting	432,783	9.1	20	5,010,571	11.6	35
Bird watching	401,836	8.4	21	16,700,190	41.6	15
Volleyball	353,273	7.4	22	13,625,145	38.6	18
Saltwater fishing boat	333,752	7.0	23	7,466,246	22.4	29
Baseball/softball	325,182	6.8	24	12,147,659	37.4	20
Nature photography	276,143	5.8	25	12,860,656	46.6	12
Waterfowl hunting	274,239	5.8	26	5,042,756	18.4	31
Power boating saltwater	247,577	5.2	27	3,731,266	15.1	32
Roller skating outdoors	244,244	5.1	28	11,403,287	46.7	11
Horse trail	229,485	4.8	29	8,596,624	37.5	19
Golf	209,964	4.4	30	7,207,195	34.3	23
Large game hunting	185,206	3.9	31	1,932,288	10.4	36
Saltwater fishing shore	176,636	3.7	32	4,335,687	24.5	27
Camping primitive sites	152,831	3.2	33	1,482,603	9.7	37
Mountain bike trail	132,358	2.8	34	3,827,726	28.9	24
Bicycling on roads	127,121	2.7	35	2,527,663	19.9	30
Other horse riding	109,029	2.3	36	3,975,034	36.5	21
Motorcycle trail	103,792	2.2	37	4,893,829	47.2	9
Sailing freshwater	83,319	1.8	38	984,960	11.8	34
Truck trail	79,034	1.7	39	997,282	12.6	33
Sailing saltwater	44,754	0.9	40	1,135,520	25.4	26

Source: Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2013-2018

TABLE 3-3 2040 PROJECTED POPULATION

County	y 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

#### 3.2 SOLUTION PRINCIPLES

As mentioned in Section 2, Alabama Power has developed Recreation Solution Principles to help maintain a consistent, common-sense approach for prioritizing both sites to be improved and new recreation facilities to be developed at the Harris Project. These Solution Principles will continue to be applied as site enhancements are discussed and prioritized during the term of the license. The Solution Principles are:

- Consideration of new recreational facilities should be based on demonstrated need and the potential impact on existing facilities;
- Priority should be given to demonstrated need within the FERC project boundary;
- Priority should be given to recreational proposals where multiple stakeholders offer significant participation;
- Recreational facilities should appeal to a broad public;
- Reasonable access for the disabled should be provided;
- Recreational needs should be prioritized for the Project including a schedule of proposed improvements so that all costs are not in the first few years of the new license;
- The improvement or expansion of existing recreational facilities should be considered first;
- Preferred consideration will be given to ideas that 1) do not promote facilities that
  would adversely impact existing commercial operations, 2) identify actual
  recreational needs that are not filled by existing facilities and 3) receive broad
  public support.

#### 3.3 ESTABLISHING RECREATIONAL NEEDS

As part of the Adaptive Management Process and based on the criteria outlined below, Alabama Power and consulting stakeholders have determined whether a demonstrated recreational need is present for each Project recreation site. Based on this evaluation, all sites will fall into one of two categories: Demonstrated Recreational Need or Satisfactory. Additionally, Alabama Power proposes to use the Adaptive Management Process to determine if a Project recreation site is still needed, or whether the site may be removed from the Harris Project.

#### 3.3.1 DEMONSTRATED RECREATIONAL NEED

Alabama Power considers a Demonstrated Recreational Need to be present at a site and/or development if one or more of the following criteria are true:

- 1. Recreation study results show a License-required amenity type at a development is above capacity.
- 2. Persistent site specific issues exist (e.g., recurring user conflicts, recurring unauthorized uses, high usage during peak seasons, significant upgrades, repairs or relocation of facilities are needed).
- 3. Time-sensitive, substantial partnership opportunities for recreational development with or previous commitments to agencies, local governments, stakeholders, etc.
- 4. Broad consensus among multiple stakeholders/agencies that site/amenity enhancement is a priority.

Once a Demonstrated Recreational Need is identified, Alabama Power will pursue the appropriate management actions which may include:

- Conducting additional investigations (monitoring of usage, identification of engineering solutions, identification of alternative sites, identification of the types and appropriateness of occurring uses);
- Consulting with stakeholders;
- Conducting recreation studies;
- Instituting new policies;
- Conducting public education efforts;
- Constructing or expanding facilities which have been previously approved by FERC; and/or

• Submitting an application to FERC to amend the approved Recreation Plan to modify or add additional facilities/amenities.

#### 3.3.2 SATISFACTORY SITES

Project recreation sites that do not meet any of the above criteria sets but adequately meet recreation needs are considered Satisfactory. No significant management actions will be taken.

#### 3.4 DECOMMISSIONING OF EXISTING RECREATION SITES

As recreation and population patterns shift, Alabama Power has identified a set of criteria to determine whether decommissioning existing Project recreation sites is warranted. Alabama Power proposes to decommission a site if it is no longer needed to support the Project purpose of recreation and it meets the following criteria:

- 1. Capacity utilization is less than or equal to 10 percent for ALL site amenities, AND one or more of the following:
- 2. Amenity utilization at the development is well below capacity for all types of amenities at the site.
- 3. Site specific issues are present (e.g., excessive vandalism, high number of unauthorized activities, low participation or availability of local law enforcement to conduct patrols of the site, etc.) where Alabama Power has exhausted all reasonable methods of deterring or preventing the issue(s).
- 4. Existing concerns (user conflicts, incompatible land uses, land management concerns, etc.) which cannot be addressed through other means.
- 5. Other recreational sites are available to serve the particular use; therefore, recreational needs will still be served.

Currently, Alabama Power is not seeking to decommission any sites based on these criteria. However, during the next Recreation Plan update, Alabama Power will begin assessing the continued viability of existing sites based on these criteria. After criteria for decommissioning is met, Alabama Power will evaluate the continued appropriateness of the shoreline classification and determine what remaining Project purposes, if any, the lands may serve. Some sites may be decommissioned and remain in the Recreation classification while others, such as those with conflicting land uses, may be proposed for removal from the Project. In either case, Alabama Power will revise the Recreation Plan,

conduct additional stakeholder consultation, seek FERC approval of the revised Plan, and request amendments to the License as necessary.

#### 3.5 CONTINUED CONSULTATION DURING THE LICENSE TERM

As part of the Adaptive Management Process, Alabama Power will monitor use of the FERC approved Project recreation sites periodically over the term of the new Harris Project license. Monitoring will be performed every 10 years after FERC approval of the Recreation Plan and will involve conducting use counts at the Project recreation sites using an appropriate methodology, such as trail cameras, spot counts, drone/aerial counts, or other readily available and cost-effective technology.

Alabama Power will also compile applicable data and information to assess the current recreation use of Project recreation facilities. This information, along with any proposed revisions to the Recreation Plan, will then be distributed to consulting stakeholders for review. Alabama Power proposes to file the Recreation Plan revisions by January 31 every 10 years over the term of the new license. Recreation Plan revisions will include:

- Updated site descriptions and drawings, reflecting the previous cycle's construction or other improvements
- Current recreation use data
- Consultation documentation including meeting summaries of any meeting with the consulting stakeholders (that discusses recreational use and demand, and associated Project-related resource effects)
- Additional measures or modifications to the Project recreation sites and a schedule for implementing such changes
- Any other proposed management actions or pertinent Recreation Plan changes to sites, policies, or practices

Distribution of the draft Recreation Plan and associated information occurred concurrently with the filing of the Final License Proposal (FLA) on November 23, 2021.<sup>4</sup> Agencies and stakeholders will have an opportunity to review and comment on the Recreation Plan as part of FERC review and comment period on the FLA.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> This Draft Recreation Plan (revised June 2022) is materially the same as the one distributed on November 23, 2021; Figure 5-1 has been replaced in response to FERC's February 15, 2022 Additional Information Request.

#### 4.0 RECREATION MANAGEMENT AT THE HARRIS PROJECT

The following sections address various aspects of Recreation Management for the Harris Project.

- Section 4.1 Signage at Project recreation sites and a program to ensure that signage is maintained during the license term
- .Section 4.2 Summary of Barrier-free considerations
- Section 4.3 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
- Section 4.4 Waste Management Signage at Project Recreation Sites

## 4.1 SIGNAGE AT PROJECT RECREATION SITES

Alabama Power displays signage as required by Title 18, Part 8, Section 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (18 CFR 8.2) at the existing Project recreation sites. Photo 3-1 below shows an example of current Part 8 signage at Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp at the Harris Project. To reduce vandalism at undeveloped Project recreation sites, Alabama Power will continue to place "Part 8" signs only at developed recreation sites.



PHOTO 3-1 PROJECT PART 8 SIGNAGE AT BIG FOX CREEK BOAT RAMP

Alabama Power proposes to survey signage associated with 18 CFR 8.2 at Project recreation sites monthly to ensure that the signs are well maintained and replaced as necessary. Alabama Power will maintain records of the monthly surveillance and will update sign content as necessary.

#### 4.2 BARRIER-FREE CONSIDERATIONS

FERC requires licensees to consider the needs of the disabled when designing, installing, and maintaining Project recreation sites. Alabama Power considers the needs of the disabled in its plans for improving existing sites and constructing new facilities.

#### 4.3 BARRIER-FREE EVALUATION PROGRAM

Alabama Power has established a Barrier-Free Evaluation Program to confirm the existing barrier-free nature of and to investigate the required actions necessary to transition all Alabama Power recreation sites to barrier-free and to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, where feasible.<sup>5</sup> All new facilities and amenities will be built, where feasible, to comply with current ADA standards. Where compliance with current ADA standards is not feasible, Alabama Power will pursue barrier-free access, if feasible.

Alabama Power will update recreation site descriptions and drawings to include any additional barrier-free facilities every ten years, as necessary, during the decennial revision of the Recreation Plan, for the duration of the license term.

#### 4.4 SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL

Prior to conducting any ground-disturbing activity at a Project recreation site, Alabama Power and its contractor will review the work plan and use appropriate best management practices (BMPs) to minimize erosion and prevent siltation of the reservoir. These BMPs include silt fencing, straw wattles, temporary grassing, disturbance minimization, and bioengineering techniques such as planting willow and wetland species. Alabama Power

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Alabama Power recognizes that its obligation to comply with the ADA exists independently of its Project licenses. Therefore, Alabama Power does not seek FERC approval of the portions of its Barrier-Free Evaluation Program which refer to ADA standards but have included them to provide FERC with a full explanation of Alabama Power's consideration for the needs of the disabled.

will also comply with the BMPs described in the Harris Project Shoreline Management Program (SMP).

If land disturbance equals or exceeds 1 acre, Alabama Power's Environmental Affairs will apply for a construction permit from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) by submitting the appropriate notice of intent (NOI) and preparing a construction best management practices plan (CBMP). Upon initiation of construction, Environmental Affairs will monitor progress as appropriate and keep records according to the requirements of the construction permit until the site is stabilized and the permit is terminated. For any proposed recreation site improvements involving shoreline stabilization projects (e.g., rip rap) that may influence areas designated as Sensitive Resources according to the Harris Project SMP, Alabama Power will consult with the appropriate agency or agencies and perform applicable environmental analysis.

#### 4.5 WASTE MANAGEMENT AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Alabama Power, in conjunction with ADCNR, implemented a "Carry in Carry out" policy at most access sites. Historically, when litter receptacles were placed at access sites, household garbage and fish carcasses dominated the refuse; however, the "Carry in Carry out" policy and removal of litter receptacles at most sites has sufficiently resolved this issue.

Litter receptacles remain only at day use sites with multiple amenities. These receptacles are regularly emptied and supplied with appropriately sized bags.

Alabama Power has incorporated "Carry in Carry out" language on the Part 8 signs at Project recreation sites where litter receptacles were removed (Photo 3-2). In addition, Alabama Power partners with local groups in the Renew Our Rivers initiative, which is one of the Southeast's largest organized river-system cleanups and includes annual cleanups on the Chattahoochee, Coosa, Tallapoosa, Mobile, Alabama, and Black Warrior rivers in Alabama.

Project recreation sites will be maintained according to Alabama Power's *General Guidelines for Operations & Maintenance of Developed Project Recreation Sites* (Appendix A). These guidelines are considered general, as each Project recreation site is unique, and maintenance activities may need to be adjusted periodically for various situations. As

these guidelines change and the Recreation Plan is updated, the most current guidelines will be attached to this document over the term of the new license.

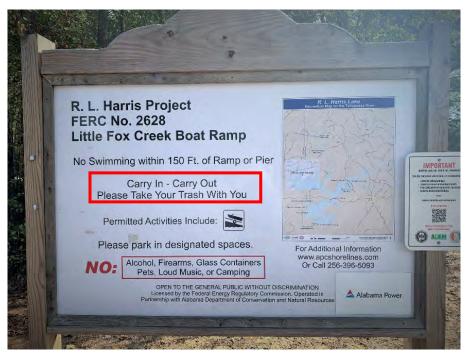


PHOTO 3-2 EXAMPLE CARRY IN CARRY OUT LANGUAGE ON PART 8 SIGNS

# 5.0 PROJECT RECREATION SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Table 5-1 and Figure 5-1 identify the recreation sites proposed to be required by the Project license. Each of the sites is located within the Project boundary and is classed as "Recreation" in the Shoreline Management Plan.

**TABLE 5-1: HARRIS PROJECT RECREATION SITES** 

SITE
Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp
Crescent Crest Boat Ramp
Flat Rock Park
Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp
Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier and Canoe/Kayak Put-In
Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp
Highway 48 Day Use Park
Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp
Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp
Lonnie White Boat Ramp
R.L Harris Wildlife Management Area
Swagg Boat Ramp
Wedowee Marine South <sup>6</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 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. It is proposed to be removed as a Project recreation site.

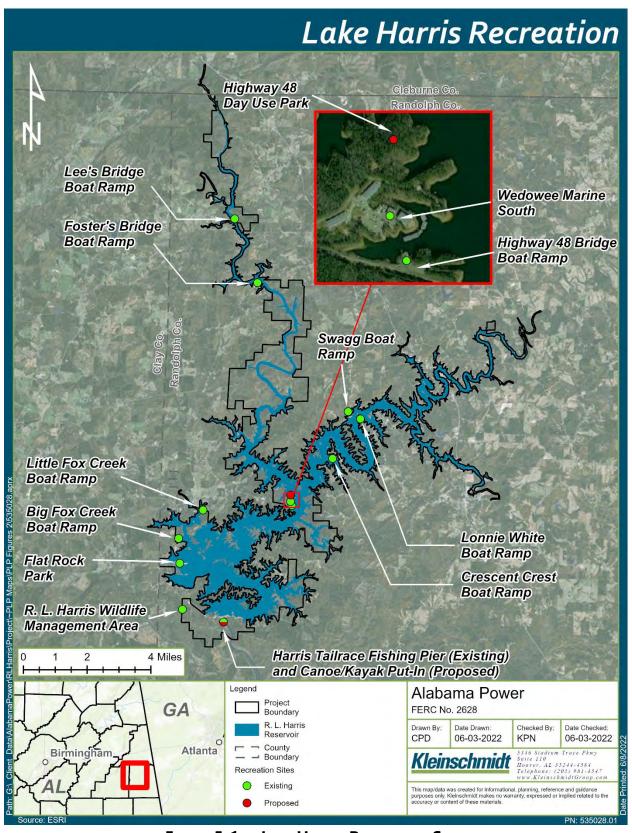


FIGURE 5-1 LAKE HARRIS RECREATION SITES

#### 5.1 SITE DESCRIPTIONS

The following pages include a description of each site (current as of 2021).<sup>7</sup> Each site description includes:

- Site operations and maintenance, including annual operating and maintenance costs (in 2021 dollars); and
- Site development.

Alabama Power is providing as-built documentation to clearly demonstrate that the recreation sites, including approved recreation facilities, have been constructed in substantial conformity as approved. Illustrations within the site descriptions indicate existing and proposed facilities, where applicable, for all of the sites. "Proposed" facilities on drawings have been reviewed for feasibility but should not be considered engineered drawings. Final placement of facilities may vary due to conditions discovered during implementation.

With regard to parking, many of Alabama Power's sites do not have striped parking lots. The general area of these parking facilities is depicted on both concept and as-built drawings, with an estimate of the number and types of vehicles that can be accommodated. Because there is no designated parking, the mix of vehicles that these facilities may accommodate can vary. For example, an un-striped parking area which can accommodate 20 trailers could be considered to accommodate 19 trailers and 2 single cars or 18 trailers and 4 single cars, etc.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Recreation Evaluation Report (Kleinschmidt 2020) included an inventory of existing Project recreation sites. However, the inventory was conducted in 2019. The site descriptions in this Draft Recreation Plan are current as of November 2021.

# **BIG FOX CREEK BOAT RAMP**

Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp is an approximately 8-acre site providing a boat launch to the southern portion of Lake Harris. The site is located on County Rd 895, near Lineville, AL, and currently features the following facilities:

- Approximately 26 trailer parking spaces
- 1 Double lane boat ramp with 2 launching piers



**BOAT RAMP AND LAUNCHING PIER** 



**LAUNCHING PIER** 

# **Site Operation and Maintenance**

Alabama Power maintains the necessary property rights to operate this site and currently leases the site to the ADCNR, which is responsible for heavy maintenance of the ramp and parking areas. Alabama Power conducts day-to-day operations and maintenance at an estimated yearly cost of \$6,000. This site is open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year.

In accordance with the Recreation Guidelines, Big Fox Creek Boat Ramp has a "Carry in Carry out" waste management policy and is inspected on a monthly basis. Monthly inspections include but are not limited to the following: FERC required signage, maintenance issues, site vandalism, litter, and grass cutting. If a maintenance issue is discovered, it is documented, the appropriate personnel are immediately notified, and the issue is resolved in a timely manner. The resolution of the issue is also documented.

# Site Development

No improvements were proposed for this site during the relicensing process.

Crescent Crest Boat Ramp is an approximately 4-acre site providing a boat launch to the southern portion of the Little Tallapoosa section of Lake Harris. The site is located on Crescent Crest Drive in Wedowee, Alabama, and currently features the following facilities:

- Approximately 11 trailer parking spaces and 1 barrier-free trailer parking space
- 1 Double-lane boat ramp with 1 barrier-free launching pier
- 1 Barrier-free path from barrier-free trailer parking space to barrier-free launching pier and boat ramp



**BOAT RAMP AND BARRIER-FREE LAUNCHING PIER** 

# **Site Operation and Maintenance**

Alabama Powers maintains the necessary property rights to operate this site and is responsible for operations at the site, which is open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year. Alabama Power's yearly maintenance costs for the site total \$6,000.

## **CRESCENT CREST BOAT RAMP**

In accordance with the Recreation Guidelines, Crescent Crest Boat Ramp has a "Carry in Carry out" waste management policy and is inspected on a monthly basis. Monthly inspections include but are not limited to the following: FERC required signage, maintenance issues, site vandalism, litter, and grass cutting. If a maintenance issue is discovered, it is documented, the appropriate personnel are immediately notified, and the issue is resolved in a timely manner. The resolution of the issue is also documented.

# **Site Development**

No improvements were proposed for this site during the relicensing process.

#### **FLAT ROCK PARK**

Flat Rock Park is an approximately 52.5-acre site providing a day use park, swimming area, nature trail, and fishing pier. The site is located on County Road 870 in Lineville, Alabama, and currently features the following facilities:

- Approximately 189 single-car parking spaces and 7 barrier-free parking spaces
- 39 Single pavilions and 3 group pavilions with picnic tables
- 2 Individual barrier-free picnic tables
- 1 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 picnic tables and 1 barrier-free group pavilion with 4 barrier-free picnic tables
- Barrier-free path from 1 barrier-free parking space to 1 barrier-free group pavilion
- 1 Barrier-free playground
- 1 Barrier-free restroom
- Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free single car parking spaces to barrier-free restroom and barrier-free playground
- 1 Barrier-free fishing pier
- 1 Bank fishing area (approximately 100-ft)
- Barrier-free path from 2 barrier-free single car parking spaces to barrier-free fishing pier
- Swim area
- 1 Elevated boardwalk
- An approximately 1 mile nature trail with interpretive signage
- 1 Gazebo
- 2 Benches and 1 barrier-free bench
- 2 Kiosks containing map of nature trail



FISHING PIER



FLAT ROCK PARK INTERPRETIVE AREA

#### **FLAT ROCK PARK**

# **Site Operation and Maintenance**

Alabama Power maintains the necessary property rights to operate this site. Alabama Power conducts day-to-day operations and maintenance at an estimated yearly cost of \$100,000. This park is open May through September; the fishing pier and trail are open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year.

In accordance with the Recreation Guidelines, Flat Rock Park has a "Carry in Carry out" waste management policy and is inspected on a daily basis when the park is open and monthly when the park is closed. Inspections include but are not limited to the following: FERC required signage, maintenance issues, site vandalism, litter, and grass cutting. If a maintenance issue is discovered, it is documented, the appropriate personnel are immediately notified, and the issue is resolved in a timely manner. The resolution of the issue is also documented.

# **Site Development**

No improvements were proposed for this site during the relicensing process.

Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp is an approximately 2-acre site providing a boat launch to the northern portion of the Big Tallapoosa arm of Lake Harris. The site is located on County Road 82 in Lineville, Alabama, and currently features the following facilities:

- Approximately 18 trailer parking spaces
- 1 Double lane boat ramp with 2 launching piers
- Path from boat launch to launching pier



**BOAT RAMP** 

# **Site Operation and Maintenance**

Alabama Power maintains the necessary property rights to operate this site and currently leases the site to the ADCNR, which is responsible for heavy maintenance of the ramp and parking areas. Alabama Power conducts day-to-day operations and maintenance at an estimated yearly cost of \$6,000. This site is open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year.

In accordance with the Recreation Guidelines, Foster's Bridge Boat Ramp has a "Carry in Carry out" waste management policy and is inspected on a monthly basis. Monthly

## **FOSTER'S BRIDGE BOAT RAMP**

inspections include but are not limited to the following: FERC required signage, maintenance issues, site vandalism, litter, and grass cutting. If a maintenance issue is discovered, it is documented, the appropriate personnel are immediately notified, and the issue is resolved in a timely manner. The resolution of the issue is also documented.

# **Site Development**

No improvements were proposed for this site during the relicensing process.

# HARRIS TAILRACE FISHING PIER AND CANOE/KAYAK PUT-IN

The Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier and Canoe/Kayak Put-In is an approximately 5-acre site currently providing fishing access to the tailrace of Harris Dam. The site is located on County Road 100 in Lineville, Alabama, and currently features the following facilities:

- 1 Fishing pier
- Approximately 8-single car parking spaces and 2 barrier-free single car parking spaces
- 1 Barrier-free path from parking area to the fishing pier
- 1 Barrier-free restroom
- 1 Barrier-free path from barrier-free single car parking space to barrier-free restroom
- 3 Benches at fishing pier



FISHING PIER

# **Site Operation and Maintenance**

Alabama Powers maintains the necessary property rights to operate this site and is responsible for operations at the site, which is open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year. Alabama Power's yearly maintenance costs for the site total \$13,000.

In accordance with the Recreation Guidelines, the Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier has a "Carry in Carry out" waste management policy and is inspected on a monthly basis. Monthly

# HARRIS TAILRACE FISHING PIER AND CANOE/KAYAK PUT-IN

inspections include but are not limited to the following: FERC required signage, maintenance issues, site vandalism, litter, and grass cutting. If a maintenance issue is discovered, it is documented, the appropriate personnel are immediately notified, and the issue is resolved in a timely manner. The resolution of the issue is also documented.

# **Site Development**

Alabama Power proposes to improve the Harris Tailrace Fishing area to include a barrier-free canoe/kayak put-in, including a barrier-free path from the existing parking area to the barrier-free canoe/kayak put-in (see Figure 5-2). The barrier-free canoe/kayak put-in will be completed within 2 years following installation and performance testing of the proposed minimum flow unit.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> In its FLA, Alabama Power is proposing to install, operate and maintain a minimum flow unit to provide a continuous minimum flow of approximately 300 cubic feet per second in the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam. Alabama Power anticipates the continuous minimum flow unit would take approximately 48 months to complete.

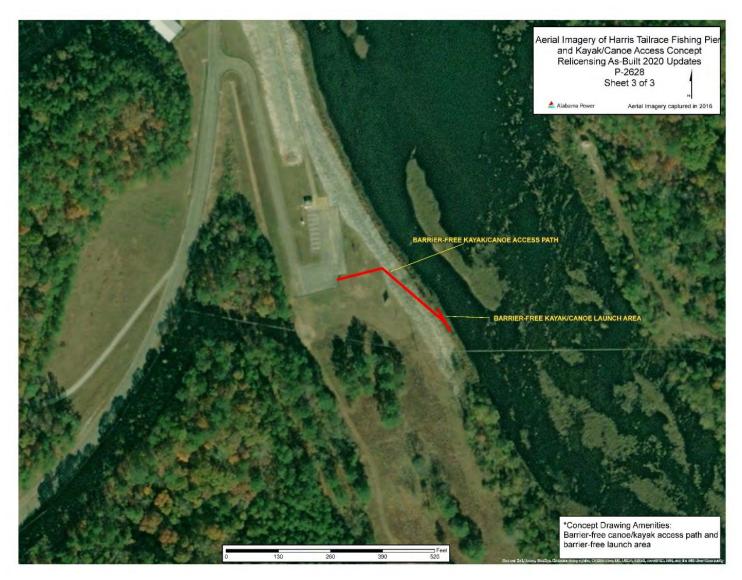


FIGURE 5-2 HARRIS TAILRACE FISHING PIER AND CANOE/KAYAK PUT-IN CONCEPT DESIGN

### **HIGHWAY 48 BRIDGE BOAT RAMP**

Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp is an approximately 5-acre site providing a boat launch to the central portion of Lake Harris. The site is located on Highway 48 in Lineville, Alabama, and currently features the following facilities:

- Approximately 27 trailer parking spaces and 3 barrier-free trailer parking space
- 1 Double lane boat ramp with 1 barrier-free launching pier and 1 launching pier
- 1 Barrier-free path from barrier-free trailer parking spaces to barrier-free launching pier
- 1 Barrier-free restroom
- 1 Barrier-free path from barrier-free trailer parking space to barrier-free restroom



**LAUNCHING PIER** 



**BARRIER FREE RESTROOM** 

# **Site Operation and Maintenance**

Alabama Power maintains the necessary property rights to operate this site and currently leases the site to the ADCNR, which is responsible for heavy maintenance of the ramp and parking areas. Alabama Power conducts day-to-day operations and maintenance at an estimated yearly cost of \$14,000. This site is open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year.

In accordance with the Recreation Guidelines, Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp has a "Carry in Carry out" waste management policy and is inspected on a monthly basis. Monthly inspections include but are not limited to the following: FERC required signage, maintenance issues, site vandalism, litter, and grass cutting. If a maintenance issue is discovered, it is documented, the appropriate personnel are immediately notified, and the issue is resolved in a timely manner. The resolution of the issue is also documented.

# **Site Development**

### **HIGHWAY 48 DAY USE PARK**

Highway 48 Day Use Park will be an approximately 41-acre site providing a day use area on the central portion of Lake Harris. The site is located on Highway 48 in Lineville, Alabama.

# **Site Operation and Maintenance**

Alabama Powers maintains the necessary property rights to operate this site and will be responsible for operations at the site.

# **Site Development**

Alabama Power proposes to design and construct a day use area that will include a parking area for approximately 100 trailer parking spaces, a boat launch, and a launching pier. In addition, the site will include a separate parking area for approximately 50 single car parking spaces, a restroom, picnic area, bank fishing, and swim area (see Figure 5-3). All facilities will be barrier-free. Due to the extensive nature of construction, Alabama Power will complete the Harris Day Use Park within 5 years of FERC approval of the Recreation Plan.



FIGURE 5-3 HIGHWAY 48 DAY USE PARK CONCEPT DESIGN

Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp is an approximately 64.5-acre site providing a boat launch to the northern portion of the Big Tallapoosa arm of Lake Harris. The site is located on County Road 88 in Delta, Alabama, and currently features the following facilities:

- Approximately 4 trailer parking spaces
- 1 Single lane boat ramp with 1 launching pier
- Path from parking area to the launching pier



**BOAT RAMP** 

# **Site Operation and Maintenance**

Alabama Powers maintains the necessary property rights to operate this site and is responsible for operations at the site, which is open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year. Alabama Power's yearly maintenance costs for the site total \$6,000.

In accordance with the Recreation Guidelines, Lee's Bridge Boat Ramp has a "Carry in Carry out" waste management policy and is inspected on a monthly basis. Monthly inspections include but are not limited to the following: FERC required signage, maintenance issues, site vandalism, litter, and grass cutting. If a maintenance issue is discovered, it is

# **LEE'S BRIDGE BOAT RAMP**

documented, the appropriate personnel are immediately notified, and the issue is resolved in a timely manner. The resolution of the issue is also documented.

# **Site Development**

Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp is an approximately 6-acre site providing a boat launch to the southern portion of Lake Harris, as well as an elevated boardwalk. The site is located on County Road 863 in Lineville, Alabama, and currently features the following facilities:

- Approximately 20 trailer parking spaces and 2 barrier-free trailer parking spaces
- 1 Double-lane boat ramp with 1 barrier-free launching pier
- 1 Barrier-free path from barrier-free trailer parking spaces to barrier-free launching pier and boat ramp
- Gravel parking area with approximately 8 single vehicle parking spaces and 1 barrier-free single vehicle parking space
- 1 Barrier-free elevated boardwalk
- 1 Barrier-free path from barrier-free single vehicle parking space to barrier-free elevated boardwalk
- 1 Kiosk containing a map of barrier-free elevated boardwalk



**BOAT RAMP** 



BARRIER-FREE ELEVATED BOARDWALK

# **Site Operation and Maintenance**

Alabama Power maintains the necessary property rights to operate this site and currently leases the site to the ADCNR, which is responsible for heavy maintenance of the ramp and parking areas. Alabama Power conducts day-to-day operations and maintenance at an estimated yearly cost of \$6,000. This site is open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year.

In accordance with the Recreation Guidelines, Little Fox Creek Boat Ramp has a "Carry in Carry out" waste management policy and is inspected on a monthly basis. Monthly inspections include but are not limited to the following: FERC required signage, maintenance issues, site vandalism, litter, and grass cutting. If a maintenance issue is discovered, it is documented, the appropriate personnel are immediately notified, and the issue is resolved in a timely manner. The resolution of the issue is also documented.

# **Site Development**

Lonnie White Boat Ramp is an approximately 3-acre site providing a boat launch to the central portion of the Little Tallapoosa arm of Lake Harris. The site is located on County Road 129 in Wedowee, Alabama, and currently features the following facilities:

- Approximately 18 trailer parking spaces and 2 barrier-free trailer parking spaces
- 1 Double lane boat ramp with 1 barrier-free launching pier
- 1 Barrier-free restroom
- 1 Barrier-free path from barrier-free trailer parking space to barrier-free launching pier and boat ramp
- 1 Barrier-free path from barrier-free trailer parking space to barrier-free restroom



**BOAT RAMP** 

### **Site Operation and Maintenance**

Alabama Power maintains the necessary property rights to operate this site and currently leases the site to the ADCNR, which is responsible for heavy maintenance of the ramp and parking areas. Alabama Power conducts day-to-day operations and maintenance at an estimated yearly cost of \$14,000. This site is open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year.

### **LONNIE WHITE BOAT RAMP**

In accordance with the Recreation Guidelines, Lonnie White Boat Ramp has a "Carry in Carry out" waste management policy and is inspected on a monthly basis. Monthly inspections include but are not limited to the following: FERC required signage, maintenance issues, site vandalism, litter, and grass cutting. If a maintenance issue is discovered, it is documented, the appropriate personnel are immediately notified, and the issue is resolved in a timely manner. The resolution of the issue is also documented.

# **Site Development**

### R.L. HARRIS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

The R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area provides hunting opportunities for people with physical disabilities. The area is located on Harris Dam Road in Lineville, Alabama, and currently features the following facilities:

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



**HUNTING BLIND AND FOOD PLOT** 

### **Site Operation and Maintenance**

Alabama Power maintains the necessary property rights to operate this area. Alabama Power conducts day-to-day operations and maintenance at an estimated yearly cost of \$18,500. This area is open November through January on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

The R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area is managed as a partnership between the ADCNR and Alabama Power. Hunters with physical disabilities must register with the state of Alabama to qualify to hunt at this site. Reservations are handled through the local Alabama Power Shoreline Management office. The hunter can request a specific hunting

### R.L. HARRIS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

blind and if the hunting blind is open can obtain the reservation or take any other open hunting blind. The hunter is required to fill out a form about his/her harvest that is located inside each hunting blind. Each hunter is only allowed to visit a specific hunting blind once every 2 weeks or use a 24-hour provision. The 24-hour provision means that a hunter can call within a 24-hour period and if there are openings, they can make a last minute reservation and it does not count against their 2 week term.

In accordance with the Recreation Guidelines, the R.L. Harris Wildlife Management Area has a "Carry in Carry out" waste management policy and is inspected on a monthly basis. Monthly inspections include but are not limited to the following: FERC required signage, maintenance issues, site vandalism, litter, and grass cutting. If a maintenance issue is discovered, it is documented, the appropriate personnel are immediately notified, and the issue is resolved in a timely manner. The resolution of the issue is also documented.

## **Site Development**

Swagg Boat Ramp is an approximately 2.5-acre site providing a boat launch to the central portion of the Little Tallapoosa arm of Lake Harris. The site is located on County Road 329 in Wedowee, Alabama, and currently features the following facilities:

- Approximately 4 trailer parking spaces 4 single car parking spaces
- 1 Double lane boat ramp with 1 launching pier



**BOAT RAMP AND LAUNCHING PIER** 

### **Site Operation and Maintenance**

Alabama Power maintains the necessary property rights to operate this site and currently leases the site to the ADCNR, which is responsible for heavy maintenance of the ramp and parking areas. Alabama Power conducts day-to-day operations and maintenance at an estimated yearly cost of \$6,000. This site is open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year.

In accordance with the Recreation Guidelines, Swagg Boat Ramp has a "Carry in Carry out" waste management policy and is inspected on a monthly basis. Monthly inspections include but are not limited to the following: FERC required signage, maintenance issues, site vandalism, litter, and grass cutting. If a maintenance issue is discovered, it is

# **SWAGG BOAT RAMP**

documented, the appropriate personnel are immediately notified, and the issue is resolved in a timely manner. The resolution of the issue is also documented.

# **Site Development**

Wedowee Marine South is an approximately 20-acre site providing a variety of facilities on the central portion of Lake Harris. The site is located on Highway 48 in Lineville, Alabama, and currently features the following Project recreation facilities<sup>9</sup>:

- Approximately 68 single-car parking spaces and 5 barrier-free parking spaces
- Approximately 60 trailer parking spaces
- 1 Double lane boat ramp (fee) with 1 launching pier
- Ship store and restaurant
- Fuel station with 4 boat slips and small store
- 2 Dry storage buildings that can accommodate approximately 100 boats each
- 2 Floating covered docks with approximately 58 boat slips that can accommodate up to approximately 116 watercrafts
- Day use area with playground, 2 picnic tables, swim beach, and swim pier

In addition to the Harris Project recreation facilities, the site also includes the following non-project facilities <sup>10</sup>:

- Watercraft sales and marine service facilities
- Marine service building with overflow parking lot (approximately 15 trailer parking spaces) and associated single lane boat ramp
- Tournament meeting building with public restrooms
- 2 Gravel parking areas
- 1 Single lane boat ramp with 1 launching pier
- 1 Dry storage building that can accommodate 14 boats
- 1 Dry storage building that can accommodate 6 boats

<sup>9 147</sup> FERC ¶ 62,105 and 167 FERC ¶ 62,092

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 147 FERC ¶ 62,105, 167 FERC ¶ 62,092, and 173 FERC ¶ 62,112



**BOAT RAMP** 

# **Site Operation and Maintenance**

Alabama Power owns the property at this site and currently leases the entire site to a private owner, who is responsible for day to day operations and maintenance. This site is open 7 days a week during the summer and 6 days a week during the winter (closed on Sunday).

# Site Development

Alabama Power proposes to remove Wedowee Marine South as a Project recreation site and is seeking FERC approval to continue to lease the site and permit the entire facility as a non-project use of Project lands and waters (i.e., all facilities listed above will be approved as a non-project use). Further, Alabama Power proposes to reclassify the Project land on which the site is located to Commercial Recreation. These proposals would make Wedowee Marine South consistent with other marina facilities located on Project lands at Alabama Power's other hydroelectric projects, continue to provide the facilities located at the site, and allow Alabama Power and FERC to continue to oversee any further development at this site.

### 6.0 IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND FUTURE CONSULTATION

Alabama Power has proposed several management actions throughout this Plan. These actions are summarized below.

- File Recreation Plan revisions by January 31 every 10 years after FERC approval of the Recreation Plan. The revisions will include:
- Updated site descriptions and drawings, reflecting the previous cycle's construction or other improvements;
- Current recreation use data;
- Consultation documentation including meeting summaries of any meeting with the consulting stakeholders (that discusses recreational use and demand, and associated Project related resource effects);
- Additional measures or modifications to the Project recreation sites and a schedule for implementing such changes; and
- Any other proposed management actions or pertinent Recreation Plan changes to sites, policies, practices.
- Upon FERC approval of the Recreation Plan, the following site will be removed as a Project recreation site (but still within the Project Boundary):
- Wedowee Marine South
- Upon FERC approval of the Recreation Plan, the Highway 48 Day Use Park will be added as Project recreation site and be constructed within 5 years of FERC approval of the Recreation Plan
- Upon FERC approval of the Recreation Plan, the barrier-free canoe/kayak put-in will be added as an approved facility (unconstructed) to the Harris Tailrace Fishing Pier and be constructed within 2 years following installation and performance testing of the proposed minimum flow unit

### 7.0 REFERENCES

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### **APPENDIX A**

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF DEVELOPED PROJECT RECREATION SITES



# GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE OF DEVELOPED PROJECT RECREATION SITES

### APPLICABILITY OF GUIDELINES

These guidelines provide management operations and maintenance criteria and procedures for Alabama Power Company Developed Project Recreation Sites on Project Lands and/or waters at the following FERC licensed projects:

Lake Bouldin	Coosa	FERC Project No. 2146	Lake Harris	Tallapoosa	FERC Project No. 2628
Lake Jordan	Coosa	FERC Project No. 2146	Lake Martin	Tallapoosa	FERC Project No. 349
Lay Lake	Coosa	FERC Project No. 2146	Thurlow Lake	Tallapoosa	FERC Project No. 2407
Logan Martin Lake	Coosa	FERC Project No. 2146	Yates Lake	Tallapoosa	FERC Project No. 2407
Lake Mitchell	Coosa	FERC Project No. 2146	Smith Lake	Black Warrior	FERC Project No. 2165
Neely Henry Lake	Coosa	FERC Project No. 2146	Holt	Black Warrior	FERC Project No. 2203
Weiss Lake	Coosa	FERC Project No. 2146			

### FOR LAKE & RECREATION INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (256) 256-396-5093

or visit Alabama Power's website https://apcshorelines.com/

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of these guidelines is to outline Alabama Power Company's policies and parameters for operating and maintaining Developed Project Recreation Sites on and around lakes managed by Alabama Power Company. Alabama Power Company owns the pool property of these lakes and in some areas has additional property rights along the shoreline ("Project Lands and/or waters") and has constructed and is maintaining and operating dams on these lakes for the purpose of generating electrical energy under licenses issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC"). The FERC licenses also authorize Alabama Power Company to develop and maintain recreation sites to provide recreational access to the general public and provide the public with the opportunity to conduct certain activities and uses at these Developed Project Recreation Sites located on Project Lands and/or waters. These guidelines are not intended to be all inclusive and do not attempt to define every specific management action or activity taken in the operations and maintenance of Alabama Power Company's Developed

Project Recreation Sites on its lakes. They are provided as general guidelines to assist Alabama Power in fulfilling its operations and maintenance responsibilities as it administers the Recreation Plans included in Alabama Power's FERC licenses. These guidelines are implemented by Alabama Power Company to facilitate orderly and reasonable management of these Developed Project Recreation Sites, including the operations and maintenance of the sites, the surveillance and reporting of site issues, the adaptive management process for developing new sites or upgrading current sites, the ongoing process to make more sites barrier free, and the public education about the sites. The effect of these guidelines will be to enhance the public's recreational experiences on Alabama Power Company lakes.

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE EXCEPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THESE GUIDELINES AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION.

### **GUIDELINES**

- 1. Surveillance and Reporting: In order to ensure compliance with the applicable FERC Hydro Licenses, the included Recreational Plans, and to be consistent across Alabama Power Company managed projects, Alabama Power representatives inspect each Developed Project Recreation Site on a monthly basis. Monthly inspections include but are not limited to the following: FERC required signage, maintenance issues, site vandalism, litter, and grass cutting. If a maintenance issue is discovered, it is documented, the appropriate personnel are immediately notified, and the issue is resolved in a timely manner. The resolution of the issue is also documented. All undeveloped sites are inspected on a quarterly basis. All inspections are recorded and are maintained by the Recreation Land Manager.
- 2. Operations and Maintenance: Alabama Power Company is committed to maintaining its Developed Project Recreation Sites in a safe and efficient manner. Alabama Power Company maintains an inventory of all amenities at the Developed Project Recreation Sites and has estimated the life expectancy of each amenity. This enables Alabama Power Company to plan and budget to replace the amenities in a timely manner and to keep the amenities in a condition that will allow for a safe and enjoyable experience for the public. Alabama Power Company currently has a dedicated employee and contractor workforce to perform routine maintenance of the facilities. Routine maintenance includes but is not limited to trash removal, grounds keeping and grass cutting, amenity and sign maintenance, and the completion and documentation of maintenance records. Necessary resources will be used to address any issues that are discovered, in a timely manner.
- 3. Adaptive Management Process: In order to better plan for providing future public recreational needs, both at new sites and for adding additional amenities at existing sites, Alabama Power Company has implemented an Adaptive Management Process for its licensed projects. This formalized process of partnering with agencies and stakeholders is utilized to determine future recreational needs. This process includes examining pertinent recreation use data including Form 80 data, applies Recreation Solution Principles to FERC Form 80 results and incorporates other pertinent information, establishes recreational needs, if any, for each Project recreation site, looks at opportunities to partner with other agencies and stakeholders, and continues to consider stakeholder requests and provide for continued consultation on Recreation Plan updates. Once all the information and consultation responses are considered, Alabama Power Company determines the recreational needs for the next six years; this period corresponds with the FERC Form 80 cycle and reporting responsibilities required in the associated Recreation Plans.
- 4. <u>Barrier-Free Access:</u> Alabama Power Company is dedicated to providing Developed Project Recreation Sites that are accessible by persons with disabilities. Alabama Power Company is committed to developing

new Developed Project Recreation Sites and improved facilities at existing Developed Project Recreation Sites to meet the Barrier-Free requirements where feasible. Alabama Power Company has established a Barrier-Free Evaluation Program to confirm the barrier-free nature of the existing Developed Project Recreation Sites and to determine the necessary steps to make all Developed Project Recreation Sites barrier free, over time, if feasible. Once the evaluation of the Developed Project Recreation Sites is complete, Alabama Power Company will develop a reasonable schedule to make the sites barrier free and to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act standards, where feasible.

5. <u>Public Education:</u> Alabama Power Company is dedicated to educating the general public of the existence, location and amenities available at all Project Recreation Sites. Alabama Power Company accomplishes this through numerous means including but not limited to maintaining Alabama Power Company's Shorelines website "apcshorelines.com", publishing the Shorelines magazine, through the Shorelines App, and by referencing all the Developed Recreation Sites on the lake shown on the Part 8 signage map that is displayed at each Developed Project Recreation Site. Alabama Power Company also highlights the Developed Project Recreation sites for its projects at each of its Shoreline Management Office's yearly Public Education Open Houses.

### CONCLUSION

Alabama Power Company is committed to providing the general public with various recreational opportunities on all projects. These opportunities are either provided by Alabama Power Company alone or in partnership with numerous agencies, municipalities and stakeholders. Alabama Power Company will continue to work with the general public and with the various partners to ensure the quality and quantity of recreational opportunities fulfills the demonstrated needs of the general public and meet the requirements of its FERC licenses and that they comply with the approved Recreation Plans. While this document attempts to provide a comprehensive outline of Alabama Power Company's General Guidelines for Operations & Maintenance of Developed Project Recreation Sites to fulfill its management and compliance obligations set forth in the Recreation Plans of its FERC licenses, it is not intended to be all-inclusive and does not attempt to address every specific management action or activity taken in the operations and maintenance of Alabama Power Company's Developed Project Recreation Sites.

# APPENDIX B PROJECT RECREATION AS-BUILT AND CONCEPT SITE PLAN DRAWINGS

