

FERC Project No. 14797
Devil Canyon Project
Recreation Facilities Condition Assessment Approach

FIELD RESULTS AND DATA SUMMARY

April 9, 2018

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) provides the following field results and data summary for the Devil Canyon Project, *Recreation Facilities Condition Assessment Study*, which includes work completed to date, key findings, and associated data files.

Completed Work:

DWR has completed all portions of this Study Approach, including taking inventory of all recreation facilities and amenities, and gathering data of recreation users who use these facilities. DWR's methodology followed the *Recreation Facilities Condition Assessment Study Approach*. A summary of completed work is as follows:

- All recreation sites at Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area and facilities within the study area were field documented for location, condition, ADA accessibility, and maintenance recommendations.
- User created trails and sites within the study area were field documented.
- Parking on Highway 138 and on Forest Service Road 2N33 was inventoried to include in the assessment. Parking on Hwy 138 occurs when the park fills to capacity and when users are accessing the park for free, which includes users who fish at night. Free access to the lake is also available off of Forest Service Road 2N33.
- Staff conducted field surveys over the course of 17 days between June 5, 2017 and November 16, 2017.
- Observation surveys were conducted during the peak recreation season. The surveys include data from weekdays (6/6/17 – 6/8/17 & 7/13/17), weekends (8/19/17 – 8/20/17) and Labor Day holiday weekend (9/2/17 – 9/3/17).
- All GPS data was post processed for consistency and saved as a geodatabase file with photo attachments in the database.
- Potential areas of facility improvement were identified and information specific to these improvements is available in several feature classes of the geodatabase. Importance is placed on areas that require upgrades to meet current standards of California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines.
- Maps summarizing field data were prepared.
- Meetings with Project stakeholders were conducted and meeting notes were compiled.

Key Accomplishments/Summary of Results:

The completed work referenced above resulted in the following:

- Field assessments included taking counts and performing a conditions assessment of all facilities such as restrooms, picnic sites, grill areas, signs, camp sites, parking areas and

access paths within the study area. This provided an overall update to existing park data. It also identified potential areas of improvement and gave a detailed and overall picture of ADA accessibility within the State Recreation Area. See Table 1 for site conditions assessment and evaluation rating standards.

- The study included an accessibility assessment for all recreation facilities and access routes within the study area. State Parks has made ADA accessibility improvements to facilities as recently as the summer of 2017 and these are included in the inventory. See Table 1 for site conditions assessment and evaluation rating standards.
- The survey results included observations of users and their different activities. Since the observation surveys were conducted on different types of days (weekends, weekdays, and holidays) user counts reflect peak use, standard use, and slower times at the park. This data also shows which areas of the park are more desirable and receive more use. The most popular area is Sawpit Canyon swim beach and picnic areas. Cleghorn Day Use area is usually the last to fill on peak use days.
- Nine Interviews were conducted with recreation providers and managers to gain insight into recreation use patterns, user needs and how the park currently functions and is managed now and in the past. Meetings included the San Bernardino National Forest, State Parks (two interview meetings), Pacific Crest Trail Association, Rocky Mountain Recreation (concessionaire at the lake), DWR, Caltrans, and the Mojave River Natural History Association.

Table 1. Site Condition Assessment and Evaluation Rating Standards

FACILITY TYPE	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Roads & Parking (circulation and condition of surface paving)	Across most areas needs reconditioning or replacement. Markings worn and less evident. Current conditions could pose safety hazards (pedestrians, bikes and vehicles) and uncomfortable transit across surface.	Some areas are problematic but no major safety concerns. May need fresh line markings (note that)	Maintained. No rehabilitation within next 5-10 years.	New condition. No maintenance required.

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<p>Recreation Site Building (condition, including restrooms, statement of condition is reflection about maintenance of buildings)</p>	<p>Structures in disrepair requiring immediate or near term attention. Potential for significant rehabilitation. Problems could include leaks and sagging roofs or warped exposed wood surfaces.</p>	<p>Some aspects need rehabilitation, such as painting or replacement of roofing or modernization perhaps. Repairs should be made but no immediate needs.</p>	<p>Structure appears in sound, well maintained condition. No significant problems observed.</p>	<p>New condition. No maintenance required.</p>
<p>Recreation Site Amenities (condition and functionality of shade structures, water spigots, lighting structures, fencing, trash receptacles, picnic tables, barbeques, grills, drinking fountains, docks, etc.)</p>	<p>Likely that facility amenity should be replaced in near term or at least major overhaul, rehabilitation. Little evidence of maintenance.</p>	<p>Amenity or components appear damaged, less functional, or in need of replacement. Could be accommodated through routine maintenance.</p>	<p>Amenity appear in sound, well maintained condition. No significant problems observed.</p>	<p>New condition. No maintenance required.</p>
<p>Signs (presence/condition of project and recreation signs, indicate content, form/structure, function and basic visibility as well as style)</p>	<p>No information on sign. Signs do not exist (where it appears they once stood) and require immediate repair or replacement or are essentially dysfunctional in terms of likely utility or use/appeal to meet user needs. Sign structure is out of place with regards to style and appearance of other amenities.</p>	<p>Sign show some damage or dilapidation, style not in conformance with other signs, structure requires maintenance, information present but requires updating because of poor readability (fading/markings) or relevance (outdated information).</p>	<p>Sign generally in good condition and well maintained. Information displayed is current and relevant for recreation users. No obvious disrepair or maintenance issues.</p>	<p>New condition. No maintenance required. Sign serves its intended purpose.</p>

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<p>Access (paved trail, natural surface trail, sidewalks and other access to recreation facilities)</p>	<p>Pavement is crumbling and degraded and should be replaced or removed. Natural surface trails in poor condition would include erosion and washouts preventing access to trail users.</p>	<p>Surface shows age and is degraded but functioning. Some areas are problematic but no major safety concerns. Could be accommodated through routine maintenance.</p>	<p>Trail surface or sidewalk condition appears in sound, well maintained condition. No significant problems observed.</p>	<p>New condition. No maintenance required.</p>
<p>ADA Compliance (Presence of accessible facilities)</p>	<p>Little or no consideration for people with disabilities access, clearly not consistent with ADA guidelines.</p>	<p>Some accessible and ADA type facilities, but in disrepair or not up to date or current standards (e.g. slopes too steep, inadequate turning radius, poor approach surface, docks inaccessible).</p>	<p>Apparent high quality of accessibility, Facilities appear consistent with current ADA standards.</p>	<p>New condition. Facilities that are built to the most current ADA standards for California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines.</p>

Associated Data Files (All associated data can be found at the file location below on DWR's Devil Canyon Project Relicensing Website. (<http://devil-canyon-project-relicensing.com/>))

File Name	Data Description	File Type	File Location
GIS data: 20180221_dwr_p14797_DC _Recreation_GIS	Zip file with GIS geodatabase containing recreation facility point data, recreation facility detail site point data (shows all amenities at each site throughout recreation area), parking area point data (number of spaces, number of ADA spaces, condition), sign point data, access line data (access paths, trails, sidewalks), access maintenance point location data (shows locations where maintenance issues or hazardous conditions exist on access routes), ADA point data (shows areas that should be considered for upgrades to greatly improve the accessibility at the site), and perimeter parking point data (general_point) shows where people park outside of the fee area to access the lake (often when the park reaches capacity).	Geodatabase	Studies/Study-9- Recreation-Facilities- Condition-and-Demand- Assessment/Associated Data Files/Maps and GIS Data
Maps: Various.	Maps showing recreation inventory point and line data.	PDF	Studies/Study-9- Recreation-Facilities- Condition-and-Demand- Assessment/Associated Data Files/Maps and GIS Data

Photos: Various. Naming convention is layer_site_name_photo ID	Photos of sites, access paths, amenities, restrooms, etc. Shows representative conditions.	JPEG image	Studies/Study-9-Recreation-Facilities-Condition-and-Demand-Assessment/Associated Data Files/Photos
Observation Survey Data: DC_observation_table	Table with observation survey data.	MS Excel	Studies/Study-9-Recreation-Facilities-Condition-and-Demand-Assessment/Associated Data Files/Observation Surveys
Stakeholder Meeting Notes: Various.	Notes from several stakeholder meetings.	PDF	Studies/Study-9-Recreation-Facilities-Condition-and-Demand-Assessment/Associated Data Files/Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Variations from Study Methods, Schedule or Approach and Abnormalities in Expected Field Conditions:

The completed work referenced above resulted in the following variances and/or abnormalities in expected conditions:

- Observations were not performed at the group camps. Booking and visitor data for the group camps are available from State Parks. It didn't seem accurate to count visitors at these sites because many were out doing daytime activities and wouldn't give a good representation of the use. Also, the group camps are not used during the week. The sites that were eliminated from the observation survey are: Miller Canyon Group Camp, Barranca Group Camp, Rio Group Camp, and Valle Group Camp.
- Observations were not performed at the campgrounds for the same reasons stated above for group camps. Campgrounds that were eliminated from the observation survey are: Mesa, Hike and Bike Campground, and New Mesa Campground.
- Observations were not performed at the overlook viewing areas including Jamajab Point, Lynx Point, Devil's Pit, Garces Overlook and the Silverwood hike and bike trail network as well as Miller Canyon Picnic Area on the hike and bike trail. These sites were not included because they are difficult to access and have low use and are not likely locations that are used for recreation activities other than hiking/biking, exercising, or sightseeing/wildlife observation. It was generally observed that these sites were not frequently visited or heavily used during weekdays, weekends, and holidays. General observations were made by boat and during inventory field work and no visitors were observed during those times at the overlook sites.

Remaining Work:

The Study is complete. Further analysis will be forthcoming to compare and contrast data sets.