



Recreation Use and Facilities Assessment Study Plan

Moyie River Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. 1991)

February 17, 2025

Prepared by:



Prepared for:
City of Bonners Ferry
Bonners Ferry, Idaho

Contents

1.0	Introduction and Background.....	1-1
1.1	General Description of the Project.....	1-1
1.2	Study Consultation	1-1
1.3	Study Goals and Objectives	1-1
2.0	Study Area	2-1
3.0	Methodology and Reporting	3-1
3.1	Recreation Use Assessment	3-1
3.2	Recreation Use Survey.....	3-1
3.3	Facilities Condition Assessment	3-2
3.4	Reporting.....	3-2
4.0	Schedule and Consultation.....	4-1
4.1	Study Schedule	4-1
4.2	Consultation	4-1

List of Figures

Figure No.	Description	Page No.
Figure 2.0-1.	Project location.	2-2
Figure 2.0-2.	Project Boundary.	2-3

List of Appendices

Appendix A	Recreation Use Observation Form
Appendix B	Online Recreation Use Survey
Appendix C	Recreation Facilities Evaluation Criteria
Appendix D	Recreation Facility Condition Assessment Form

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
City	City of Bonners Ferry, Idaho
Commission	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FLA	Final License Application
FPA.....	Federal Power Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
PAD	Pre-Application Document
Project	Moyie River Hydroelectric Project
Study	Recreation Use and Facilities Assessment
TLP	Traditional Licensing Process
U.S.C.	United States Code
USFS	United States Forest Service

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 General Description of the Project

The City of Bonners Ferry, Idaho (Bonners Ferry or City) is the licensee, owner, and operator of the Moyie River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1991) (Project or Moyie River Project). The Project is located on the Moyie River in Boundary County, Idaho. The Project was licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) on June 9, 1999 (with an effective date of June 1, 1999), and the license expires on May 31, 2029.

The Project is currently licensed by FERC under the authority granted by Congress through the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 791(a), et seq., to license and oversee the construction and operation of non-federal hydroelectric projects on jurisdictional waters and/or federal lands. As described in the Pre-Application Document (PAD) and the associated Notice of Intent (NOI), filed with FERC on April 29, 2024, the City is pursuing a new license for the Project using FERC's Traditional Licensing Process (TLP), as defined in 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 5. On June 3, 2024, FERC approved the City's request to use the TLP. In accordance with FERC's regulations at 18 CFR § 16.9(b), the City must file an application for a new license for the Project on or before May 31, 2027.

At this time, the City is not proposing any modifications to the physical plant or dam, new facilities, or operational changes to the Project. While the City does not presently propose any new Project facilities or upgrades, the City will continually evaluate the potential for such improvements over the course of the relicensing. If the City intends to propose any new Project facilities or upgrades in the Final License Application (FLA) that would affect the scope of relicensing studies, the City will inform FERC and licensing stakeholders of this proposal at a time early enough in the pre-filing consultation process to ensure that the effects of any new facilities or upgrades are appropriately considered as part of the relicensing process.

1.2 Study Consultation

The City proposed a Recreation Use and Facilities Assessment (Study) in the PAD and consulted with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho in development of this Study Plan.

1.3 Study Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Study is to gather current information on recreation facilities, recreational use, and to determine existing and future recreation use and capacity at the Project. The objectives of the Study are to:

- Assess the amount of use that each site is receiving and the recreation activities that occur at each site;
- Implement a survey of visitor feedback regarding their perception and experience at recreation facilities at the Project; and
- Inventory and identify the condition of the recreation facilities and associated amenities at the Project.

2.0 Study Area

The Study Area includes the Project recreation facilities in the Project Boundary, including

- Moyie Falls Viewpoint;
- Moyie Reservoir Boating Takeout and Day-Use Area;
- Moyie Reservoir; and
- Other undeveloped day-use areas.

Figure 2.0-1 and Figure 2.0-2 identify the Project Area, Project Boundary, and Project recreation facilities.

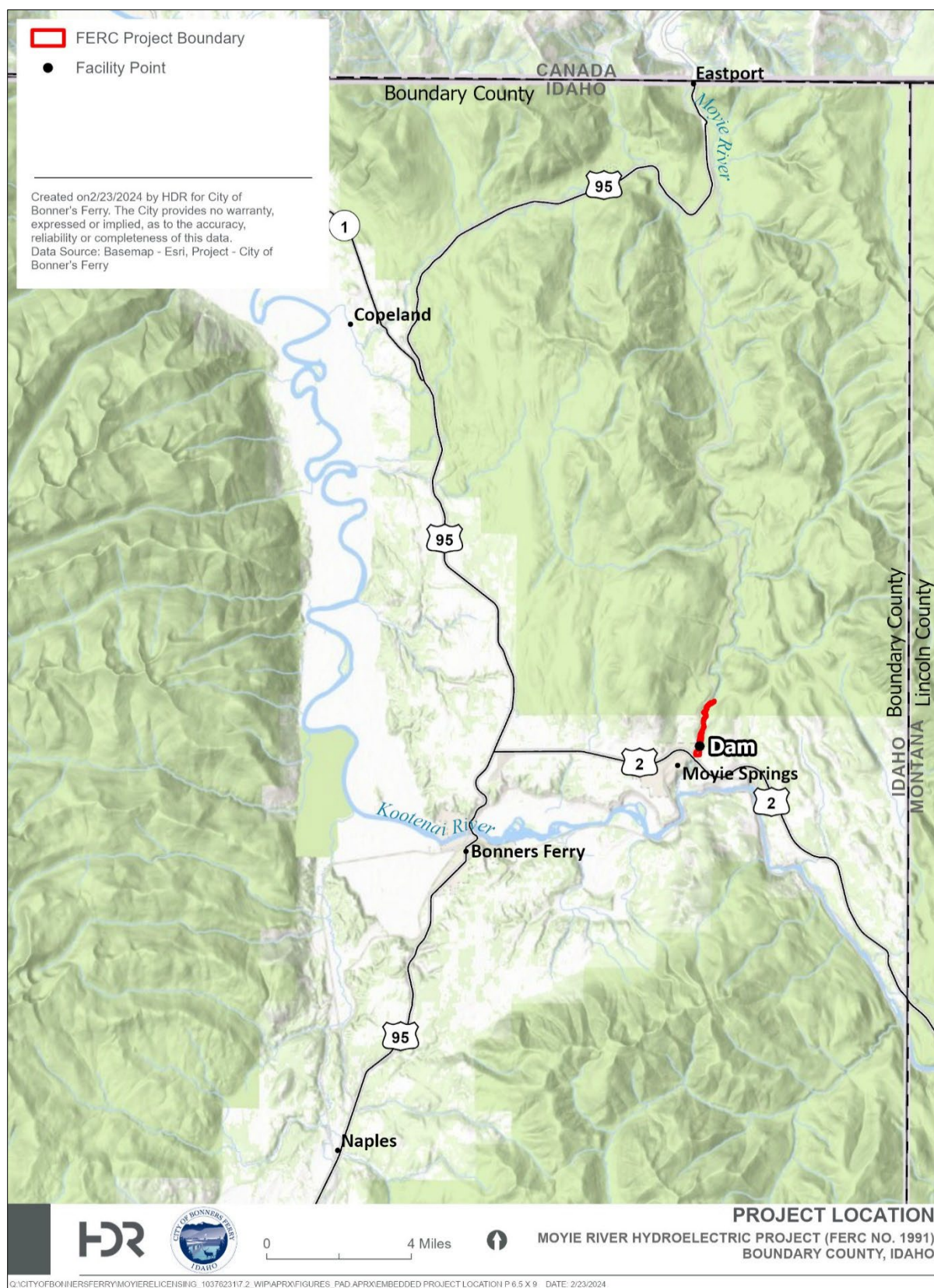


Figure 2.0-1. Project location.

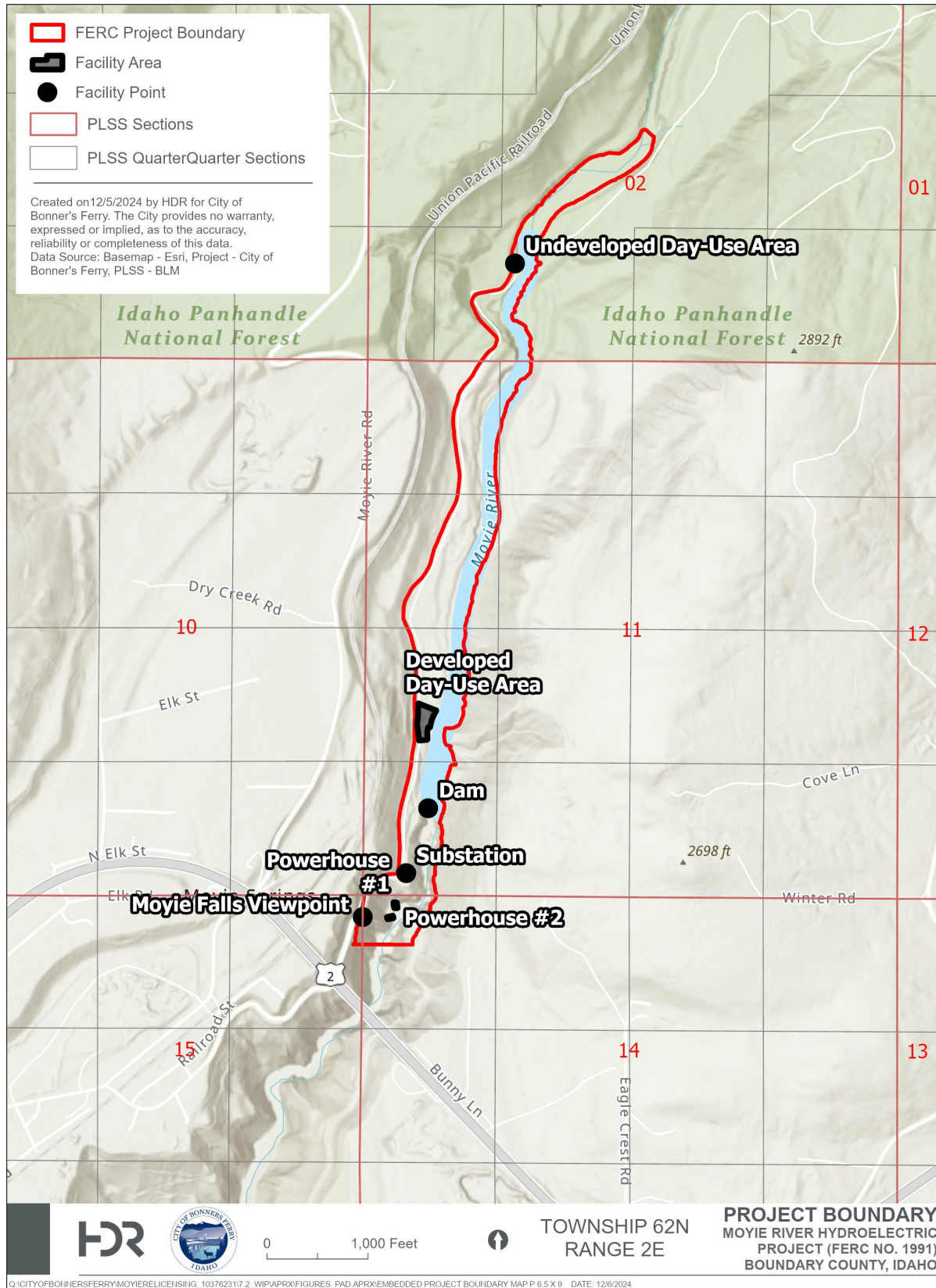


Figure 2.0-2. Project Boundary.

3.0 Methodology and Reporting

The Study will consist of a recreation use assessment, survey, and facilities condition assessment, as described below.

3.1 Recreation Use Assessment

The City will conduct spot counts at the recreation areas at the Project identified in the Study Area in Section 2.0. The spot counts will represent short-term counts (approximately 5 minutes per site) in which the City will record the number and type of vehicles parked at a site and the number of users observed. The spot counts will represent a snapshot in time depicting specific user groups and their activities during randomly selected intervals. The designated observer will fill out an observation form (Appendix A) during survey days. These observations will include the following information:

- Date and time;
- Observer;
- Weather conditions;
- Number and type of vehicles observed;
- Number of people observed;
- Observed activities;
- Other pertinent notes; and
- Site photos.

The City will conduct the spot counts at different times on a rotating basis to account for time of use patterns. The spot counts will occur on 17 survey days from Memorial Day holiday weekend through September, as outlined below.

- May: One (1) holiday day during the Memorial Day holiday weekend.
- June: Two (2) weekdays and two (2) weekend days.
- July: Two (2) weekdays and two (2) weekend or holiday days (one [1] day will be during the July 4 holiday weekend).
- August: Two (2) weekdays and two (2) weekend days.
- September: Two (2) weekdays and two (2) weekend or holiday days (one [1] day will be during Labor Day weekend).

3.2 Recreation Use Survey

The purpose of the recreation use survey is to gain user opinions regarding the existing recreation facilities and amenities. The survey will be internet-based. The survey will focus on visitors' typical visits to the Project area and identify key recreation visit information (e.g., number of people in a party, primary reason (recreational activity) for visiting the Project area) and seek their opinions regarding the amount and types of recreation opportunities offered within the Project area. The proposed Survey Form is attached as Appendix B.

Links to the survey will be published on the Project relicensing website and forwarded to all relicensing stakeholders. Information will also be posted at Project recreation locations and other key locations. The information will include a link to the internet-based survey and a QR code for smart phone users to access the survey.

3.3 Facilities Condition Assessment

The City will conduct a qualitative assessment of the condition of developed recreation site features, amenities and signs at each of the Project recreation facilities identified in Section 2.0. The assessment categories are poor, fair, good, and excellent condition. Appendix C provides the evaluation criteria that will be used by type of recreation facility amenity. The City will provide the individual condition ratings for each site amenity within a facility as well as an overall facility rating as part of the Study Report. The City will use a condition assessment form to evaluate each facility, and an example form is provided in Appendix D.

3.4 Reporting

The Study methodology and results will be documented in a Study Report and provided to Study participants on or before January 31, 2026.

4.0 Schedule and Consultation

4.1 Study Schedule

The recreation use assessment will occur from Memorial Day holiday weekend through September 2025.

The recreation use survey will be made available from May through September 2025.

The facilities condition assessment will occur in May 2025.

The Study methodology and results will be documented in a Study Report and provided to Study participants on or before January 31, 2026.

4.2 Consultation

The City will consult with the USFS, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and other interested parties in implementation of this Study. Consultation summaries will be provided in the Study Report.

Appendix A
Recreation Use
Observation Form

Moyie River Hydroelectric Project (P-1991) Recreation Use Observation Form

Observer: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Weather conditions: _____ Temperature: _____

Site 1: Moyie Falls Viewpoint

Number of people: _____ Number of automobiles: _____

Other recreation vehicles (ORV) (describe and count): _____

Observed Activities:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Waterfall viewing | ☐ Viewing wildlife or birdwatching | ☐ Recreation vehicle use |
| ☐ Hiking, walking, or jogging | ☐ Other (describe below) | |



Notes:

Site 2: Boating Take-out and Day-Use Area

Number of people: _____ Number of automobiles: _____

Other recreation vehicles (ORV, boat, raft) (describe and count): _____

Observed Activities:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Fishing from shore | ☐ Picnicking | ☐ Photography |
| ☐ Whitewater boating takeout | ☐ Relaxing or resting | ☐ Recreation vehicle use |
| ☐ Swimming | ☐ Viewing wildlife or birdwatching | ☐ Other (describe below) |
| ☐ Hiking, walking, or jogging | | |

Notes:

Site 3: Moyie Reservoir (in water use)

Number of people: _____

Recreation vehicles (boat, raft, paddleboard) (describe and count): _____

Observed Activities:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ Fishing from boat | ☐ Relaxing or resting | ☐ Photography |
| ☐ Kayaking or paddleboarding | ☐ Viewing wildlife or birdwatching | ☐ Other (describe below) |
| ☐ Swimming | | |

Notes:

Site 4: Other Undeveloped Day-Use Areas

Number of people: _____

Number of automobiles: _____

Other recreation vehicles (ORV, boat, raft) (describe and count): _____

Description of Area: _____

Observed Activities:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Fishing from shore | ☐ Relaxing or resting | ☐ Recreation vehicle use |
| ☐ Swimming | ☐ Viewing wildlife or birdwatching | ☐ Other (describe below) |
| ☐ Hiking, walking, or jogging | ☐ Photography | |
| ☐ Picnicking | | |

Notes:

Other notes and observations:



Appendix B

Online Recreation Use Survey

MOYIE RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (P-1991)
Online Recreation Use Survey

****IMPORTANT - This survey mainly focuses on your typical visit to Moyie Dam and Reservoir area****

1. Date of your most recent visit to Moyie Dam and Reservoir: _____
2. **On your typical visit** to Moyie Dam and Reservoir, which recreation site is your primary destination? (select one)
*Note: the site you select will be the focus of questions #9 through #13 of this survey.
 - ☐ Moyie Falls Viewpoint
 - ☐ Moyie Reservoir Boating Takeout and Day-use Area
 - ☐ Other Undeveloped Day-Use Areas (please describe): _____
3. **On your typical visit** to Moyie Dam and Reservoir, what other areas/sites did you visit (select all that apply)?
 - ☐ Moyie Falls Viewpoint
 - ☐ Moyie Reservoir Boating Takeout and Day-use Area
 - ☐ Other Undeveloped Day-Use Areas (please describe)
 - ☐ Moyie Reservoir (in water use)
4. Including yourself, how many people are in your party **on a typical visit**? _____
5. Have you visited Moyie Dam and Reservoir before? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - ❖ If "YES", approximately how many times do you visit Moyie Dam and Reservoir per year?

6. What seasons do you **typically visit** Moyie Dam and Reservoir? (select all that apply)
 - ☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☐ Fall ☐ Winter
7. Please indicate which of the following recreational activities you participate in **on your typical visit** to Moyie Dam and Reservoir? (select all that apply)
 - ☐ Waterfall viewing
 - ☐ Photography
 - ☐ Hiking, walking, or jogging
 - ☐ Recreation vehicle use
 - ☐ Viewing wildlife or birdwatching
 - ☐ Fishing from boat in Moyie Reservoir
 - ☐ Fishing from shore
 - ☐ Kayaking or paddleboarding in Moyie Reservoir
 - ☐ Whitewater boating takeout
 - ☐ Swimming
 - ☐ Picnicking
 - ☐ Relaxing or resting
 - ☐ Other (please describe)

8. Of the list above, which is the primary recreation activity on your typical visit to Moyie Dam and Reservoir? (select one)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Waterfall viewing | ☐ Kayaking or paddleboarding in Moyie Reservoir |
| ☐ Photography | ☐ Whitewater boating takeout |
| ☐ Hiking, walking, or jogging | ☐ Swimming |
| ☐ Recreation vehicle use | ☐ Picnicking |
| ☐ Viewing wildlife or birdwatching | ☐ Relaxing or resting |
| ☐ Fishing from boat in Moyie Reservoir | ☐ Other (please describe) |
| ☐ Fishing from shore | |

****IMPORTANT – Questions 9 through 13 are specific to the recreation site you selected on Question 2****

9. On your typical visit to this recreation site, how crowded do you feel? (select one number)

Not at all crowded		Slightly Crowded		Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

10. On your typical visit to this recreation site, how many other visitors/groups do you encounter? (select one)

- ☐ None ☐ 1 group ☐ 2 groups ☐ 3 groups ☐ More than 3 groups

11. Please rate the acceptability of the following existing facilities at this recreation site?

Note: if an amenity does not exist at a site, then please select "Not Applicable"

Amenities	Acceptable	Slightly Acceptable	Neither	Slightly Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Not Applicable	If you rated a condition "slightly unacceptable" or "unacceptable", describe the <u>nature</u> of the unacceptable condition:
Parking area	5	4	3	2	1	☐	
Restroom	5	4	3	2	1	☐	
Boat ramp	5	4	3	2	1	☐	
Picnic tables	5	4	3	2	1	☐	
Fire ring	5	4	3	2	1	☐	
Fishing platform	5	4	3	2	1	☐	
Falls viewing area	5	4	3	2	1	☐	
Visitor information/sign	5	4	3	2	1	☐	

12. Are the amount and types of recreation facilities/amenities offered at this recreation site sufficient?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No. If "NO", please explain.

13. Are there any changes or improvements that you would like to see at this recreation site?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No. If "YES", please describe.

14. Do you have any additional comments about the recreation sites and opportunities at Moyie Dam and Reservoir?



Appendix C

Recreation Facilities Evaluation Criteria

Condition Rating	Condition Description	Examples of Condition by Facility Type		
		Vehicle Roads and Parking (surfacing on vehicle spurs and parking areas)	Recreation Site Amenities (tables, boat ramps, fire rings, restrooms, etc.)	Signs (Project and recreation signs)
1 – Poor	All or most facilities are in disrepair and need of immediate reconditioning or replacement. Current conditions create safety hazards and impact function. Little evidence of recent maintenance.	Widespread areas of rutted surfaces with potholes and uneven surfaces.	Unusable amenities or facilities.	Signs do not exist, but sign panels are bent/broken, posts or supports are broken, holes in panels.
2 – Fair	Need for improved maintenance and repair in <u>some</u> areas. No major safety concerns. Repairs should be made but are not needed immediately.	Limited areas of rutted surfaces, potholes, and uneven surfaces	Useable amenities or facilities but early signs of disrepair, limited areas of loose bolts or cracked tables. Useable but dirty fire rings, restrooms and trash receptacles.	Sign panels faded, loose bolts or posts, some text not readily legible.
3 – Good	All facilities in good condition and well maintained. No significant signs of disrepair or aging.	Parking areas consistent with limited rutting and uneven surfaces, and no potholes.	Materials not clearly new, but fully operable, no signs of damage observed, even surfaces on boat ramps, clean fire rings, restrooms and trash receptacles.	Minor signs of weathering, but fully intact, legible, and secure.
4 – Excellent	All facilities are new, near new, or recently reconditioned and well maintained.	Newly regraded parking areas with consistent surfaces and no potholes.	New materials, newly built or restored amenities or facilities.	New sign panels and posts.

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page consists of four overlapping rectangles: a dark gray one at the top right, a red one in the middle left, a light gray one at the bottom left, and a black one at the bottom right.

Appendix D

Recreation Facility Condition Assessment Form

Moyie River Hydroelectric Project (P-1991)
Recreation Facility Condition Assessment Form

INVENTORY FORM - RECREATION FACILITIES

Facility:		Date:		Surveyor:		
Feature	Variables	Response Options				
Sign	Type	informational	directional	interpretive	regulatory	other
	Panels, number	<input number>				
	Material	metal	wood	plastic	other	
	Condition	1-poor	2-fair	3-good	4-excellent	
	Comment	<manual input>				
Road	Surfacing	concrete	asphalt	gravel	dirt	other
	Condition	1-poor	2-fair	3-good	4-excellent	
	Width (ft)	<input number>				
	Comment	<manual input>				
Day Use Area	Table, material	wood	concrete	wood/metal	none	
	Table, condition	1-poor	2-fair	3-good	4-excellent	
	Fire ring, number	<input number>				
	Fire ring, condition	1-poor	2-fair	3-good	4-excellent	
	Comment	<manual input>				
Restroom	Type	vault	flush	pit	portable	other
	Construction	CXT	concrete block	wood	other	
	Exterior, condition	1-poor	2-fair	3-good	4-excellent	
Parking Area	Surfacing	asphalt	gravel	dirt	concrete	other
	Condition	1-poor	2-fair	3-good	4-excellent	
	Type	striped	wheel stop	unmarked		
	Comment	<manual input>				
Trash Receptacle	Number	<manual input>				
	Wildlife-resistant	yes	no			
	Condition	1-poor	2-fair	3-good	4-excellent	
	Comment	<manual input>				
Boat Ramp	Material	concrete	gravel	dirt	other	
	Ramp Size, lanes	<input number>				
	Width, ft	<input number>				
	Condition	1-poor	2-fair	3-good	4-excellent	
	Comment	<manual input>				