

6.8 Recreation

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This section describes recreational uses in the vicinity of the Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project (UNFFR Project) and analyzes the impacts of the operation of the UNFFR Project under a new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license on recreation. Impacts on recreational mining along the North Fork Feather River are evaluated in Section 6.2, Land Use and Mineral Resources. The following topic is not discussed in this section for the reason noted:

- **Physical deterioration of recreational facilities:** None of the alternatives considered in this EIR for the UNFFR Project are expected to increase the use of recreational facilities in a manner that could result in their deterioration.

The potential impacts of the Proposed UNFFR Project without implementation of the alternatives were evaluated in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Upper North Fork Feather River Project* issued by FERC. As required by section 15050 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) incorporates, by reference, the sections of the Final FERC EIS that analyze the impacts of the Proposed UNFFR Project on recreational resources. The FERC EIS did not evaluate Alternatives 1 or 2. These alternatives are the focus of this EIR.

6.8.1 Environmental Setting

The UNFFR Project encompasses approximately 30,920 acres, including three reservoirs, a 30-mile reach of the North Fork Feather River, and four miles of Butt Creek, in Plumas County, California. Lake Almanor, Butt Valley reservoir, Belden forebay, and the Seneca and Belden reaches of the North Fork Feather River support a variety of recreational opportunities. These areas contain numerous dispersed recreation sites, facilities, and trails that are used seasonally and year-round by recreational enthusiasts. Figure 3-1 in Chapter 3, Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) UNFFR Project, displays the locations of many of the recreational sites in the UNFFR Project area.

"Recreation contact" is a designated beneficial use identified in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins* (Basin Plan) for Lake Almanor and the North Fork Feather River downstream of Canyon dam (Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board 2011). "Recreation noncontact" is also a designated beneficial use for the North Fork Feather River. Designated beneficial uses for the North Fork Feather River apply to Butt Valley reservoir because it receives its water from Butt Creek, a tributary to the North Fork Feather River. Recreation contact is defined as "uses of water for recreational activities involving body contact with water, where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses include, but are not limited to, swimming, wading, water-skiing, skin and scuba diving, surfing, white water activities, fishing, or use of natural hot springs." "Recreation noncontact" is defined as uses of water where there is "proximity to water, but where there is generally no body contact with water, nor any likelihood of ingestion of water. These uses include, but are not limited to, picnicking, sunbathing, hiking, beachcombing, fishing, camping, boating, tidepool and marine life study, hunting, sightseeing, or aesthetic enjoyment in conjunction with the above activities." See Chapter 2, State Water Board's Regulatory Responsibilities, of this EIR for a detailed discussion of the beneficial uses of UNFFR Project area water bodies.

Recreation Facilities

Regional Facilities

Recreational opportunities in the vicinity of the UNFFR Project are distributed among four major use areas: Lake Almanor, Butt Valley reservoir, Belden forebay, and the North Fork Feather River. These areas provide year-round recreational opportunities, with seasonal activities and access dependent on the weather. Summer activities include fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, motor-boating, non-motorized water sports, and wildlife and scenery viewing (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2005). Although no winter recreation facilities have been developed at any of these major use areas, they provide opportunities for winter activities such as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. All public recreational facilities in the UNFFR Project boundary are owned and operated by either the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS) or PG&E.

Public recreational facilities at Lake Almanor include five campgrounds, four swimming areas, two boat ramps, five picnic areas, an outdoor amphitheater, two trailheads, and several angler sites (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2005). In addition to land and shoreline activities, recreationists use the abundant surface water for boating, water skiing, wakeboarding, and personal watercraft use. Publicly owned boat launches are provided on the west shore at the Almanor boat launch and day use area and on the south shore at the Canyon dam boat launch. In addition to PG&E- and USFS-operated facilities, the Lake Almanor area contains 22 privately owned recreation facilities. The private facilities provide lodging, tent and recreational vehicle camping, picnic facilities, swimming beaches, stores, fishing access, boat launching, and boat slip use/rentals.

Facilities at Butt Valley reservoir include two campgrounds, a day use area with boat launch, and two swimming areas (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2005). Most of the reservoir is accessible for day use recreation, such as boating, fishing, and wildlife viewing; however, boats are excluded from the southern end of the reservoir where the Caribou intakes are located because of numerous tree stumps in the water. For safety reasons, personal watercraft and water skiing are not allowed on the reservoir, and posted regulations limit boat speeds to 25 miles per hour. The Alder Creek day use area has a public boat launch. In addition to the three developed sites, Butt Valley reservoir contains three dispersed, undeveloped sites that are primarily used by anglers for fishing access.

Belden forebay, located near the Caribou powerhouses, does not have any developed recreation facilities, and boating and other recreational activities are prohibited on the forebay because sudden releases of water through the powerhouses pose a safety concern. The North Fork fishing trail follows the western and northern sides of the Belden forebay as it extends north toward the Seneca reach. Signs at Belden forebay direct users to the trail.

The Seneca reach of the North Fork Feather River provides diverse recreational activities, including whitewater rafting, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, swimming, canoeing, backpacking, equestrian use, sightseeing, and camping. The North Fork fishing trail follows the lower part of the Seneca reach, extending from the lower Butt Creek confluence to Belden forebay (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2005). Two dispersed, undeveloped campsites are available in this area.

The Belden reach of the North Fork Feather River provides recreational opportunities similar to those along the Seneca reach, but tends to receive much higher use because it is more

accessible. Three developed public campgrounds (Queen Lily, North Fork, and Gansner), 20 dispersed sites, and two privately owned campgrounds occur along the Belden reach (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2005). The Belden reach has a put-and-take fishery¹ in the vicinity of the campgrounds and is also used for recreational gold panning. The Belden rest stop is located adjacent to the Belden powerhouse at the downstream end of the reach. The rest stop provides a day use area and access to the Yellow Creek, Indian Springs, and Pacific Crest trails.

Local Facilities

There are three specific UNFFR Project activity areas that are discussed in the following section. The locations of these three areas are shown on Figure 6.1-1. Additional details of the facilities are described in Section 3.3.5 (Recreational Resources) of FERC's Final EIS. Figure 3-16 of the Final EIS (pg. 3-223) shows the locations of proposed recreation facility improvements in the UNFFR Project area, and Appendix C to this EIR provides additional information on these proposed improvements.

Prattville Intake Activity Area

Recreational uses in the vicinity of the Prattville intake activity area include boating, swimming, wildlife and scenery viewing, photography, fishing, picnicking, and hiking. PG&E's Marvin Alexander day use facility occupies a portion of the Lake Almanor shore adjacent to the Prattville intake structure. Other recreational facilities include the nearby Almanor campground, Almanor boat launch and day use area, Dyer View day use area, Plumas Pines Resort, and Wilson's Camp Prattville (see Figure 3-1).

Both the Almanor campground and Almanor boat launch and day use area are located 0.75-mile northwest of the Prattville intake structure. These areas are operated and maintained for the USFS by California State University, Chico Research Foundation, under a special-use permit. The campground has 102 campsites, 20 restroom facilities, and an outdoor amphitheater (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2005). The Lake Almanor recreation trail passes through the Almanor campground. The paved 9.5-mile-long trail is open to walking, hiking, bicycling, and cross-country skiing. Motorized use of the trail is not permitted. The Almanor boat launch and day use area is adjacent to the south side of the Almanor campground. The day use area has two concrete boat launches, a wooden courtesy dock, a large paved area with space for 53 vehicles and trailers, and several day use facilities, including restrooms, picnic areas, cooking grills, and a large beach with designated swimming areas.

PG&E's Marvin Alexander and the USFS' Dyer View day use areas are located southeast of the Prattville intake structure. The Marvin Alexander day use area is adjacent to the south side of the activity area; facilities at the day use area include restrooms, a gravel parking area, picnic areas, and a sandy beach with designated swimming areas. This day use area was upgraded in 2006 to accommodate the recreational demands of the area (Pacific Gas and Electric Company 2005). The shore immediately south of the intake structure is used for sunbathing, photography, and other activities. The intake structure is visible from most locations within the day use area. The Dyer View day use area is operated and maintained by the USFS (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2005). The facility includes paved parking areas, interpretive signs, benches, and restroom facilities. Trailheads for the Lake Almanor recreation trail and shoreline beach are located in the Dyer View day use area.

¹ Put-and-take fishery refers to a type of stocking in which the stocked fish are of sizes that anglers are immediately interested in catching and would consider keeping. This differs from "put-grow-take" stocking.

Plumas Pines Resort and Wilson's Camp Prattville are privately owned commercial resorts located near the Prattville intake activity area. The Plumas Pines Resort is located northwest of the intake facility, and Wilson's Camp Prattville is located southeast of the intake facility. Plumas Pines Resort has eight cabins, a recreational vehicle park, and nine motel rooms (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2005). The Plumas Pines Resort also includes a marina, restaurant, and bar. Wilson's Camp Prattville has seven cabin/duplex rentals, a 30-space marina, and a café.

Canyon Dam Activity Area

Recreational activities in the vicinity of the Canyon dam activity area include boating, fishing, wildlife and scenery viewing, photography, camping, picnicking, and hiking. Several recreational facilities located near the activity area include the: Rocky Point campground; Canyon dam boat launch; Camp Conery group campground; Canyon dam day use areas; Almanor scenic overlook; and East Shore day use area.

The Rocky Point campground and the Canyon dam boat launch are northwest of the Canyon dam outlet structure. PG&E owns and operates the Rocky Point campground, formerly called the Lake Almanor campground. The facility contains 131 campsites and 30 overflow sites and includes access to the Lake Almanor recreation trail (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2005). The Canyon dam boat launch facility is owned and operated under a special-use permit from the USFS and includes two concrete boat-launch lanes and several day use facilities, including picnic areas, cooking grills, two restrooms, and a paved parking area with 33 single vehicle spaces and 51 vehicle-with-trailer spaces.

The Camp Conery group campground and Canyon dam day use areas are located east of Canyon dam and are owned and operated by PG&E (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2005). The Camp Conery group campground can accommodate groups of up to 50 persons and includes five bunkhouses, an indoor/outdoor central group meeting and food service facility, a large campfire area, paved parking, and a volleyball and basketball court. Parking for recreational vehicles is available but does not include hookups. The Canyon dam day use area includes picnic areas, cooking grills, restrooms, ample parking, and an undeveloped swimming beach.

The Almanor scenic overlook and East Shore day use area are located northeast of the dam on the east shore of Lake Almanor. PG&E owns and operates both facilities. The Almanor scenic overlook includes paved parking and restroom facilities (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2005). The overlook offers views of Canyon dam and Lake Almanor; it formerly provided views of Mt. Lassen, but these views have become obscured by vegetation over time. The East Shore day use area contains picnic areas, restroom facilities, and undeveloped shoreline access for anglers.

Caribou Intakes Activity Area

Recreational uses in the vicinity of the Caribou intakes activity area are limited to boating on the northern portion of Butt Valley reservoir, day use activities on the eastern shore, and wildlife and scenery viewing and photography. No recreational facilities have been developed near the intakes or Butt Valley dam. Boats are excluded from the southern end of the reservoir where the intakes are located.

Visitation

Lake Almanor receives approximately 1,214,000 visitors annually, and Butt Valley reservoir receives approximately 40,900 visitors annually (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2005). Visitor use fluctuates seasonally. The highest use occurs during the summer and on holiday weekends. At Lake Almanor, the most used campground is the Rocky Point campground. The Canyon dam boat launch on Lake Almanor is frequently near capacity and periodically exceeds capacity (Pacific Gas and Electric Company 2002). PG&E estimated visitor use at Rocky Point campground to be approximately 35,000 visitors annually (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 2005). At Butt Valley reservoir, Ponderosa Flat is the most used campground. The highest annual use of Ponderosa Flat campground is estimated at 15,000 visitors.

6.8.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Methodology

The analysis of impacts on recreation in the UNFFR Project vicinity is based on information gathered from the Final FERC EIS, PG&E's relicensing application, and other relevant sources. The impact analysis addresses the potential for the Proposed UNFFR Project, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2 to substantially affect existing recreational opportunities or create hazards for water recreationists.

Thresholds of Significance

Impacts on recreation would be significant if the Proposed UNFFR Project, Alternative 1, or Alternative 2 would:

- substantially affect existing recreational opportunities, such as through restricted access or changes in the quality of the visitor experience; or
- substantially increase recreation-related hazards due to incompatible uses (e.g., structure in the water).

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This section discusses the anticipated impacts related to recreation associated with the Proposed UNFFR Project, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2 and identifies mitigation measures for significant impacts. Table 6.8-1 compares the final level of significance for each impact with incorporation of mitigation measures if appropriate.

Table 6.8-1. Summary of Recreation (RE) Impacts

IMPACT	PROPOSED UNFFR PROJECT	ALTERNATIVE 1	ALTERNATIVE 2
Impact RE-1: Construction activities associated with the UNFFR Project could disrupt recreational activities at Lake Almanor and Butt Valley reservoir.	Less than significant	Less than significant	Less than significant
Impact RE-2: Implementation of the UNFFR Project could reduce the quality of recreational opportunities at Lake Almanor or Butt Valley reservoir and create hazards for recreationists.	Less than significant	Less than significant with mitigation	Less than significant with mitigation
Impact RE-3: Implementation of the UNFFR Project could affect the quality of recreational fishing opportunities in the North Fork Feather River below Canyon dam by increasing flows in the Seneca and Belden reaches.	Less than significant	Less than significant	Less than significant

Impact RE-1: Construction activities associated with the UNFFR Project could disrupt recreational activities at Lake Almanor and Butt Valley reservoir.

Proposed UNFFR Project

Construction activities could cause temporary water quality, air quality, noise, visual, and other typical construction impacts, which could impair the peaceful enjoyment by visitors at nearby recreational areas. Under the Proposed UNFFR Project, construction activities would primarily be due to recreational improvements agreed to in the 2004 Settlement Agreement. A description of these activities and their environmental effects can be found on pages 3-222 to 3-239 of Section 3.3.5 of the Final FERC EIS and are hereby incorporated into this EIR by reference.

Activities near the construction sites would be affected primarily by construction traffic and indirect disturbance, such as from noise and fugitive dust. These impacts could disrupt recreational activities during the construction period; however, construction would be spread out over time and space. While one recreational facility could be closed for construction, others would remain open. Additionally, all of the construction would be temporary and would be aimed at improving access to recreational opportunities and the overall recreational experience.

Construction activities would not substantially disrupt recreational activities at Lake Almanor or Butt Valley reservoir and, upon completion, would improve the overall access and/or the quality of the recreational experience at most sites. Impacts on recreational uses during construction would be **less than significant**.

Alternative 1

Construction activities associated with the Prattville intake thermal curtain and Canyon dam low-level outlet modifications would cause temporary water quality, air quality, noise, visual, and other typical construction impacts, which could impair the peaceful enjoyment by visitors at

nearby recreational areas at Lake Almanor. Recreational activities on the water in the vicinity of the Prattville intake and Canyon dam would be affected the most because of access restrictions to these areas during construction and the possible temporary closure of the Canyon dam boat launch associated with modification of the Canyon dam outlet. Activities on the adjacent beaches and at nearby facilities would be affected primarily by construction traffic and indirect disturbance, such as from noise and fugitive dust. However, users would be able to recreate at other unaffected facilities at Lake Almanor for the duration of the construction if the activities are too disruptive.

The Canyon dam boat launch would be used during construction to launch the barge and may require temporary closure to minimize conflicts with other vessels. If temporary ramp closure is necessary, PG&E would be required to prepare a boat launch closure plan designed to minimize impacts on recreational boating. The plan may include measures to limit launch closure during high public use periods and implementation of a public information program to inform boaters of alternate launch facilities. Because several public and privately owned boat ramps are located along the shore of Lake Almanor, temporary closure of the Canyon dam boat launch would not substantially disrupt boating activity.

Construction activities associated with the Caribou intakes thermal curtain on Butt Valley reservoir would generate impacts similar to those described for the Prattville intake thermal curtain, but fewer recreationists would be affected. Recreational sites at Butt Valley reservoir are limited to the eastern shore of the reservoir and are distant enough that visual, air quality, and noise impacts would be minimal. Some construction noise may travel across the reservoir and affect recreationists on the reservoir or at sites adjacent to the reservoir. Construction activities would not affect boat use in Butt Valley reservoir because boats are excluded from the southern end of the reservoir where the intakes are located and where construction activities would take place. The construction activities would not prevent use of nearby recreation facilities or affect the facilities themselves.

Construction of the water quality measures would not substantially disrupt recreational activities at Lake Almanor or Butt Valley reservoir. Impacts on recreational uses during construction would be **less than significant**.

Alternative 2

Temporary recreation impacts from construction activities at the Prattville and Caribou intakes would result in the same impacts as described under Alternative 1 for the Prattville intake and Caribou intake activity areas. No construction-related impacts would occur in the Canyon dam activity area under Alternative 2. Impacts on recreational uses during construction would be **less than significant**.

Impact RE-2: Implementation of the UNFFR Project could reduce the quality of recreational opportunities at Lake Almanor or Butt Valley reservoir and create hazards for water recreationists due to the placement of structures in the reservoirs.

Proposed UNFFR Project

The Proposed UNFFR Project includes improvement of existing and construction of new recreational facilities; these activities have the potential to increase recreational opportunities on Lake Almanor and Butt Valley reservoir (see Appendix C). Under the Proposed UNFFR Project,

PG&E intends to replace and expand the North Shore Public Boat launch which would place structures in Lake Almanor. However, the structures would be minimal and are intended to improve the quality of recreational opportunities at Lake Almanor. The Proposed UNFFR Project would not create substantial hazards for water recreationists due to the placement of structures in Lake Almanor. Long-term recreational impacts would be **less than significant**.

Alternative 1

The thermal curtain at the Prattville intake would extend approximately 900 feet offshore around the intake (see Figure 4-1). This portion of the activity area would be off-limits to boaters and other water recreationists and would be demarcated by buoys, lighting, and signs. The curtain would reduce the amount of Lake Almanor area available for recreational uses near the intakes by approximately 20 acres. The reduction in the lake area available for boating on Lake Almanor would not be substantial in proportion to the amount of lake area that would remain available for boating (approximately 0.07 percent of the lake's surface area would be unavailable). Warning signs and navigation lights would warn boaters of the thermal curtain's location, and signs would be posted to reduce boat speeds to 5 miles per hour between the marinas and thermal curtain in compliance with county boat speed limits near buoys and booms. Once outside these speed reduction areas, boaters would be able to recreate on Lake Almanor as they currently do. Warning signs, navigation lights, and compliance with county boat speed limits near buoys and booms would ensure that the thermal curtain would not create a hazard for boaters.

The thermal curtain at the Prattville intake is also not expected to substantially impair the use of the commercial marinas near the activity area because boaters using these facilities would have adequate lake area to safely use these marinas. The marina northwest of the activity area (Plumas Pines marina) is about 900 feet from the intake structure. The distance between the marina breakwater and the closest part of the thermal curtain structure would be about 600 feet. This would allow adequate distance for boats to safely move in and out between the marina and the lake. To provide context, the area within the Plumas Pines marina's breakwater measures approximately 600 feet by 380 feet, which is sufficient for boats to safely maneuver around the docks and moored boats within the marina. The marina southeast of the Prattville intake (Prattville marina) is about 1,400 feet from the intake structure. The closest part of the curtain structure to the Prattville marina breakwater would be about 1,100 feet. This would also allow adequate distance for boats to safely move in and out from the marina to the lake.

Implementation of the thermal curtain at the Prattville intake would result in the permanent closure of the Marvin Alexander day use area. The location of the thermal curtain and associated binwalls would render most of the Marvin Alexander day use area inaccessible to the public. Due to lack of access to Lake Almanor, the current Marvin Alexander day use area would be decommissioned.

The modifications to the outlet structure at Canyon dam would not increase the size of the outlet structure; however, they would require temporary restrictions that may inhibit use of the Canyon dam boat launch and associated parking for shoreline access.

Installation of a thermal curtain at the Caribou intakes would not affect boat use in Butt Valley reservoir because boats are excluded from the southern end of the reservoir where the Caribou intakes are located. The Caribou intakes thermal curtain would not create a hazard for boaters or other recreationists at Butt Valley reservoir.

Installation of thermal curtains at the Prattville and Caribou intakes and modification of the Canyon dam outlet² structure would not substantially reduce the quality of recreational opportunities in Lake Almanor or Butt Valley reservoir. These measures would not create substantial hazards for water recreationists due to the placement of structures in the lake. Due to the closure of the popular Marvin Alexander day use area, long-term recreational impacts have the potential to be **significant without mitigation**.

Alternative 2

Recreational impacts at the Prattville and Caribou intakes would result in the same impacts as described under Alternative 1 for the Prattville and Butt Valley dam areas. No impacts would occur in the vicinity of Canyon dam under this alternative. Implementation of Alternative 2 would, therefore, not reduce the quality of recreational opportunities at Lake Almanor or Butt Valley reservoir or create substantial hazards for water recreationists due to the placement of structures in the reservoirs. Long-term recreational impacts have the potential to be **significant without mitigation**.

Mitigation Measure

Mitigation Measure RE-2 (Alternatives 1 and 2): Relocation of the Marvin Alexander Day Use Area

PG&E shall relocate the Marvin Alexander day use area. PG&E shall work with the State Water Board, stakeholders, and signatories of the 2004 Settlement Agreement to identify an appropriate location at which to relocate the Marvin Alexander day use area. The new site shall be required to provide the same level of access to Lake Almanor and must be equipped with the same amenities with respect to facilities and capacity. Construction activities associated with the relocation of the Marvin Alexander day use area would be subject to Mitigation Measures Geology, Geomorphology, and Soils (GGS)-1 and Water Quality (WQ)-8 as outlined in Sections 6.3.2 and 6.8.2, respectively, to prevent erosion and sedimentation and ensure the protection of water quality resources.

Significance after Mitigation

Implementation of Mitigation Measure RE-2 would maintain the current level of recreational opportunities at and around Lake Almanor. Although the location of the Marvin Alexander day use area would change, it would provide the same recreational activities and access to Lake Almanor. Implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce the impact to a **less than significant** level.

Impact RE-3: Implementation of the UNFFR Project could affect the quality of recreational fishing opportunities in the North Fork Feather River below Canyon dam by increasing flows in the Seneca and Belden reaches.

Flows released into the Seneca and Belden reaches would be modified under the Proposed UNFFR Project and both alternatives. The river would experience an initial increase in flows as the minimum flow through Canyon and Belden dams is increased, but the flow would become fairly steady, with increases or decreases as outlined in Tables 3-1, 3-2, 4-1, and 4-2. Flows would follow a pattern similar to current conditions. Because of the timing of the proposed

² Canyon dam "intake" and Canyon dam "outlet" are synonymous.

increases in flows, specifically the increased flows through Canyon dam under Alternative 1 in July and August, some fishing spots in the Seneca reach and, to a lesser extent, the Belden reach could be adversely affected under Alternative 1.

Higher flows in the North Fork Feather River reaches could reduce the quality of recreational fishing in these reaches. In support of its relicensing application, PG&E conducted a “fishability” study along the Seneca and Belden reaches during May 2001, testing various flows (Pacific Gas and Electric Company 2002). Survey participants indicated a preference for an average flow ranging from 100 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 250 cfs along the Seneca reach and 150 cfs to 300 cfs along the Belden reach. Angler preferences varied depending on the type of angling, with fly anglers preferring lower flows than bait/spin anglers. With the flow modifications, some fishing spots may experience greater flows that would reduce the quality of fishing for some fisherman. However, other locations along the river would continue to provide excellent fishing opportunities. Therefore, the flow modifications under the Proposed UNFFR Project and either alternative would not substantially affect fishing opportunities. The flow modifications would result in a small percentage of increased flows that could affect fishing conditions, but the increased flows would occur for short periods, and fishing opportunities would be similar to current conditions for most of the fishing season. Impacts on fishing opportunities would be **less than significant**.