

MEETING NOTES
Stevens Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2535)

Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.
Recreation Resource Conservation Group

October 2, 2023

Final JAG 10/25/23

ATTENDEES:

Amy Bresnahan – DESC	Clint Peacock – GADNR
Ray Ammarell – DESC	Bryant Bowen – GADNR
Billy Chastain – DESC	Dewey Richardson – GAEPD
Alison Jakupca – Kleinschmidt	Elizabeth Miller – SCDNR
Kelly Kirven – Kleinschmidt	Jason Bettinger – SCDNR
Jenn Güt – Kleinschmidt	John Luton – Columbia Co.
Twyla Cheatwood – NMFS	Dennis Hodges – Columbia Co.
Craig Clarke – USACE	Wes Horton – Columbia Co.
Stan Simpson – USACE	Wes Byne – City of Augusta
Gray Buckles – USFS	Oscar Flite – City of Augusta
Olivia Kendrick – GADCA	

These notes are a summary of the major points presented during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the draft Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the Stevens Creek Hydroelectric Project (Project), allow the opportunity for questions and discussion, and review next steps moving forward in the relicensing process.

Alison, Kleinschmidt, began the meeting with a safety moment and then went through introductions, during which, Clint, GADNR, informed the group that Paula Marcinek, previously with GADNR, has been replaced by Bryant Bowen. Clint further informed the group that Jay Payne, also formerly with GADNR, has been replaced by Aaron Gray; contact information will be provided for Aaron soon. Following introductions, Alison reviewed the meeting agenda.

The purpose of an RMP was discussed by Alison, including FERC's history of regulations.

Alison then reviewed a figure with the group that displayed the lands surrounding the Project reservoir, including recreation sites, DESC property, and USFS lands with and

without pre-existing easements. Amy, DESC, clarified that the easements displayed on the figure are for flowage. Elizabeth, SCDNR, asked if the figure could be sent to the group subsequent to the meeting. She further went on to ask if it was DESC's intent to replace the present figure with the one in the Draft License Application. Alison answered that yes, the presentation could be provided to the group, and that yes, this figure will be included in the Final License Application (FLA).

A stepwise process diagram of how RMPs are developed was presented by Alison in addition to the outline of the Project draft RMP.

The facilities and proposed enhancements at the Stevens Creek Recreation Site were reviewed by Alison. DESC is currently proposing to re-line and maximize spaces in the parking lot, improve the boat ramp, and investigate bank fishing enhancements. It is proposed that the enhancements would be completed within two years of DESC receiving the new license for the Project from FERC. Alison explained that this timeframe is as soon as reasonable based on the timing of finalization of construction drawings and obtaining permits. Elizabeth asked if non-trailer parking spaces and ADA spaces were explored at the site. DESC staff explained that there is no room to expand at the site but that they could consider non-trailer parking spaces and ADA spaces when working on designs for the parking lot. These drawings could be distributed for Recreation RCG group review and comment prior to construction at the site. Elizabeth also asked about the barrier free picnic table at the site and suggested DESC produce a sign indicating that the site has barrier free amenities. Elizabeth asked if a courtesy dock was considered for the site. Amy answered that DESC is concerned about debris and high flows in the creek causing damage to hard structures. Elizabeth asked if DESC knew how upstream landowners with docks deal with these issues, to which DESC will explore.

Alison reviewed the facilities and proposed enhancements at Betty's Branch. DESC is currently proposing to develop a Memorandum of Agreement with Columbia County to provide funding for enhancements in the Project boundary that is consistent with the County's Master Plan. Alison displayed a figure of the County's Master Plan and explained that DESC-funded enhancements could include an improved fishing pier, improved boat ramp, and/or courtesy dock. No further discussion was had on Betty's Branch.

The facilities and proposed enhancements for Fury's Ferry were presented to the group. DESC is proposing the following at the site: installation of lighting near the boat ramp to improve visibility in the area; two ADA parking spaces, including one for a vehicle with trailer; hardened barrier free path to amenities, as appropriate; three picnic tables; and an information kiosk. Due to the need to consult with the USFS, it is expected that proposed enhancements would be completed within four years of DESC receiving the new Project license. Elizabeth asked if restrooms were considered for the site. Gray, USFS, explained that the USFS does not currently have staffing to monitor and clean the restrooms and that

is not expected to change. Additionally, Gray explained that the site is continuously misused, leading to the USFS being concerned with vandalism and destruction of property. Elizabeth asked about the consideration of a courtesy dock at the site. Alison explained that option had been considered during the previous relicensing but was ultimately not recommended due to concern with flows. DESC could investigate how homeowners on this stretch of the Project reservoir deal with these issues.

Alison reviewed the relicensing schedule update, noting several opportunities for the group and other stakeholders to comment on relicensing proceedings.

Following these discussions, Jenn, Kleinschmidt, provided a comment regarding the canoe portage on behalf of Tonya Bonitatibus, Savannah Riverkeeper, who could not attend the meeting. Tonya wished to state that canoe/kayak portage through the locks of the dam should be the alternative. No further discussion on portage was had.

The meeting was adjourned.

ACTION ITEMS:

- DESC/Kleinschmidt to distribute the recent Project Recreation Use and Needs Study Report and this meeting presentation to the Recreation RCG.
 - This information was sent by Jenn, Kleinschmidt, via email on October 4, 2023.



Stevens Creek Hydroelectric Project

Recreation Resource Conservation Group
Draft Recreation Management Plan Review

October 2, 2023



Welcome,
Introductions,
Safety Moment

Meeting Purpose

To review and discuss the draft Recreation Management Plan for the Stevens Creek Hydroelectric Project, allow the opportunity for questions and discussion and review next steps moving forward in the relicensing process.

Meeting Agenda

- DISCUSS THE PURPOSE OF THE RMP
- REVIEW THE DRAFT RMP OUTLINE
- REVIEW RECREATION SITE FACILITIES AND PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS
- RMP SCHEDULE FOR UPDATES
- RELICENSING PROCESS SCHEDULE REVIEW
- CLOSING DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

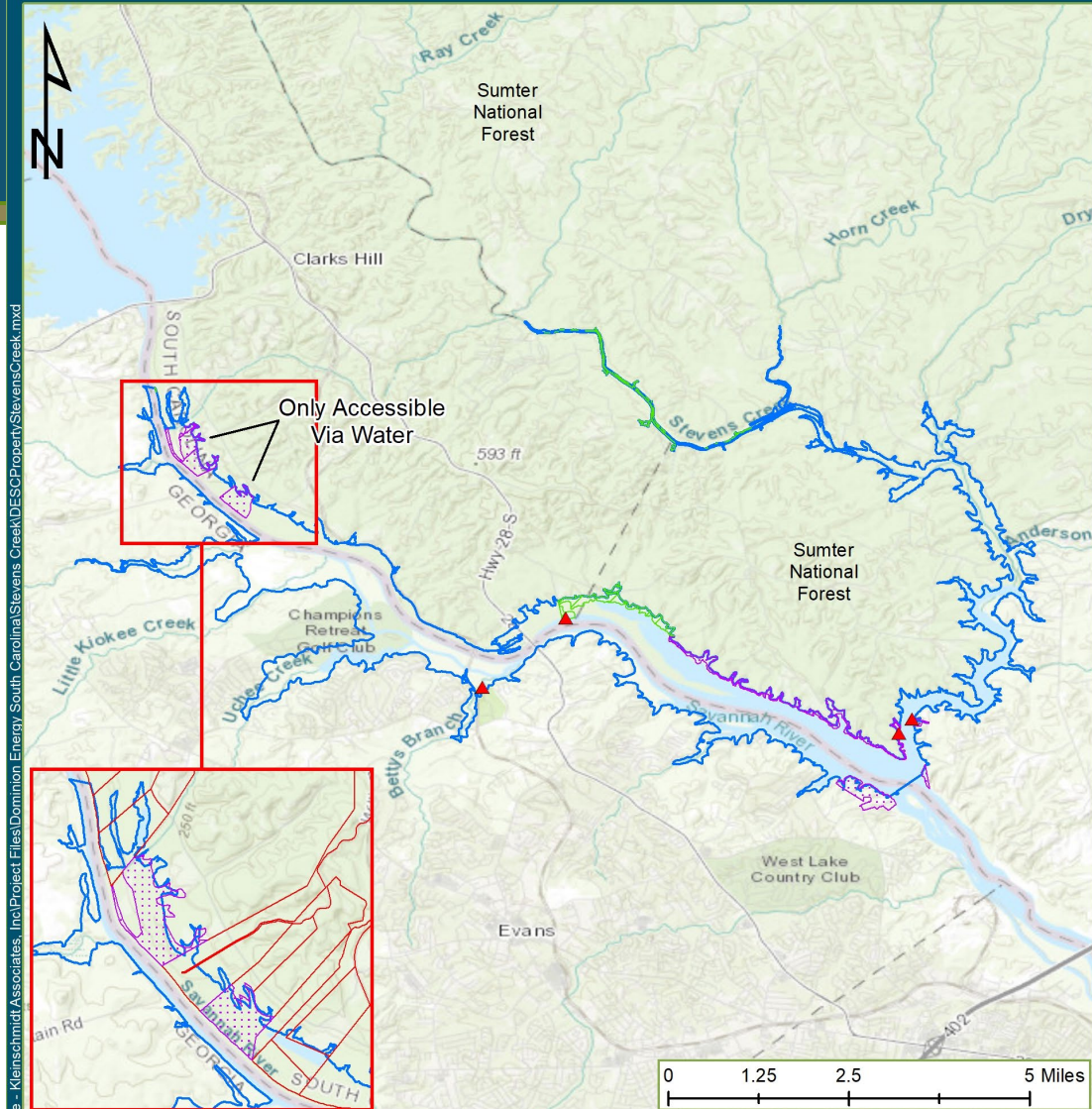
Purpose of Recreation Management Plan (RMP)

- ▶ Section 10(a)(1) of the FPA requires the Commission to ensure that any licensed project is best adapted to a comprehensive plan for improving and developing a waterway for a variety of beneficial public uses, including recreational use.
- ▶ Pursuant to this obligation, the Commission required licensees to allow public access to project lands and waters for recreational use and began to include standard conditions in licenses for the provision of recreational facilities.

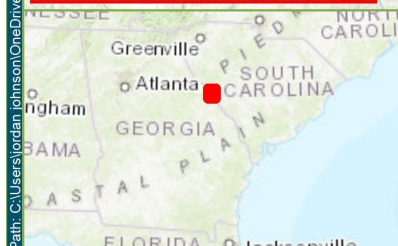
Purpose of Recreation Management Plan (RMP)

- ▶ In the 1960s, the Commission developed specific policies and practices to ensure that licensees provided reasonable recreational opportunities and notice of such opportunities to the public.
- ▶ The Commission began requiring recreation plans for the public utilization of project water and land, and in 1965 amended its regulations by adding part 8, entitled “Recreation Opportunities and Development at Licensed Projects,” in order to require licensees to widely publicize to the general public recreational opportunities at individual projects.
- ▶ Order 313, issued on December 27, 1965, amended the Commission's general policy regulations (18 CFR part 2) by adding § 2.7 to clarify that licensees whose projects include land and water resources with outdoor recreational potential have a responsibility to develop those resources in accordance with area needs, to the extent that such development is not inconsistent with the primary purpose of the project.

Lands Surrounding the Project Reservoir



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Legend

- ▲ Existing Recreation Sites
- ▨ DESC Property
- ▧ USFS Land with Pre-Existing Easement
- ▩ USFS Land without Pre-Existing Easement
- ▭ Project Boundary

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Augusta, Georgia

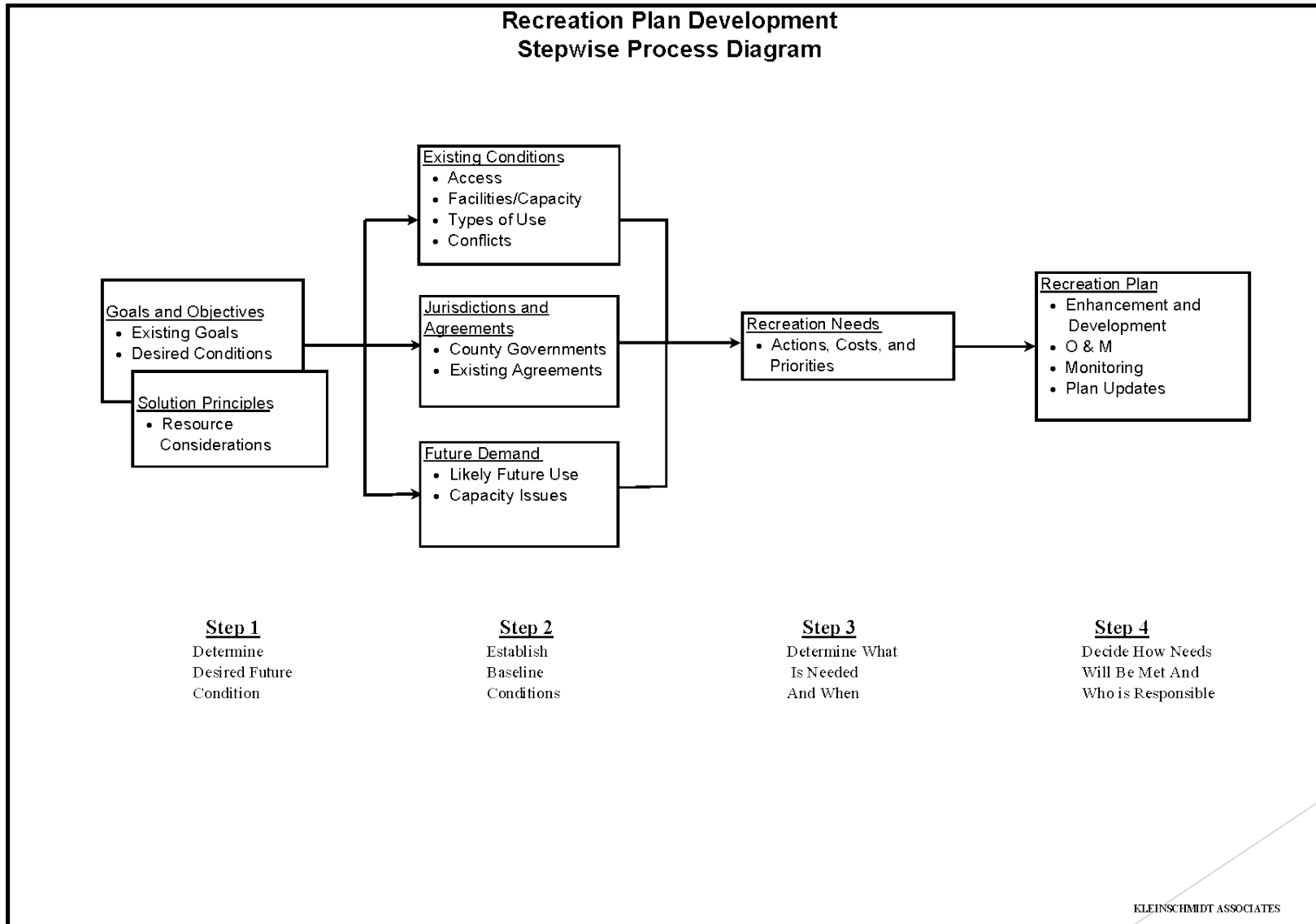
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How do we develop RMP's?



Outline of the Stevens Creek Draft RMP

Introduction

Project Recreation Site Management Policies

Public Recreation Sites: Overview and
Proposed Enhancements

Design and Construction Procedures

Summary

Facilities and Proposed Enhancements: Stevens Creek Recreation Site

► Facilities:

- A single-lane concrete boat ramp;
- A paved turn-around area;
- A parking area for approximately six vehicles with trailers;
- Three picnic tables (one barrier free);
- One vault restroom;
- A paved access road; and
- A safety sign.

► Proposed Enhancements w/in 2 yrs:

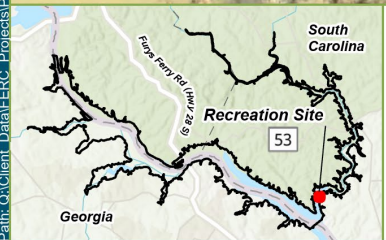
- Re-line and maximize spaces in the parking lot;
- Improve the boat ramp; and
- Investigate bank fishing enhancements.



Recreation Resources- Stevens Creek



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Legend (Proposed Features)

- Turnaround Area
- Extended Boat Ramp

Pink Text -Proposed Features

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Augusta, GA

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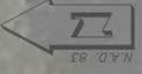
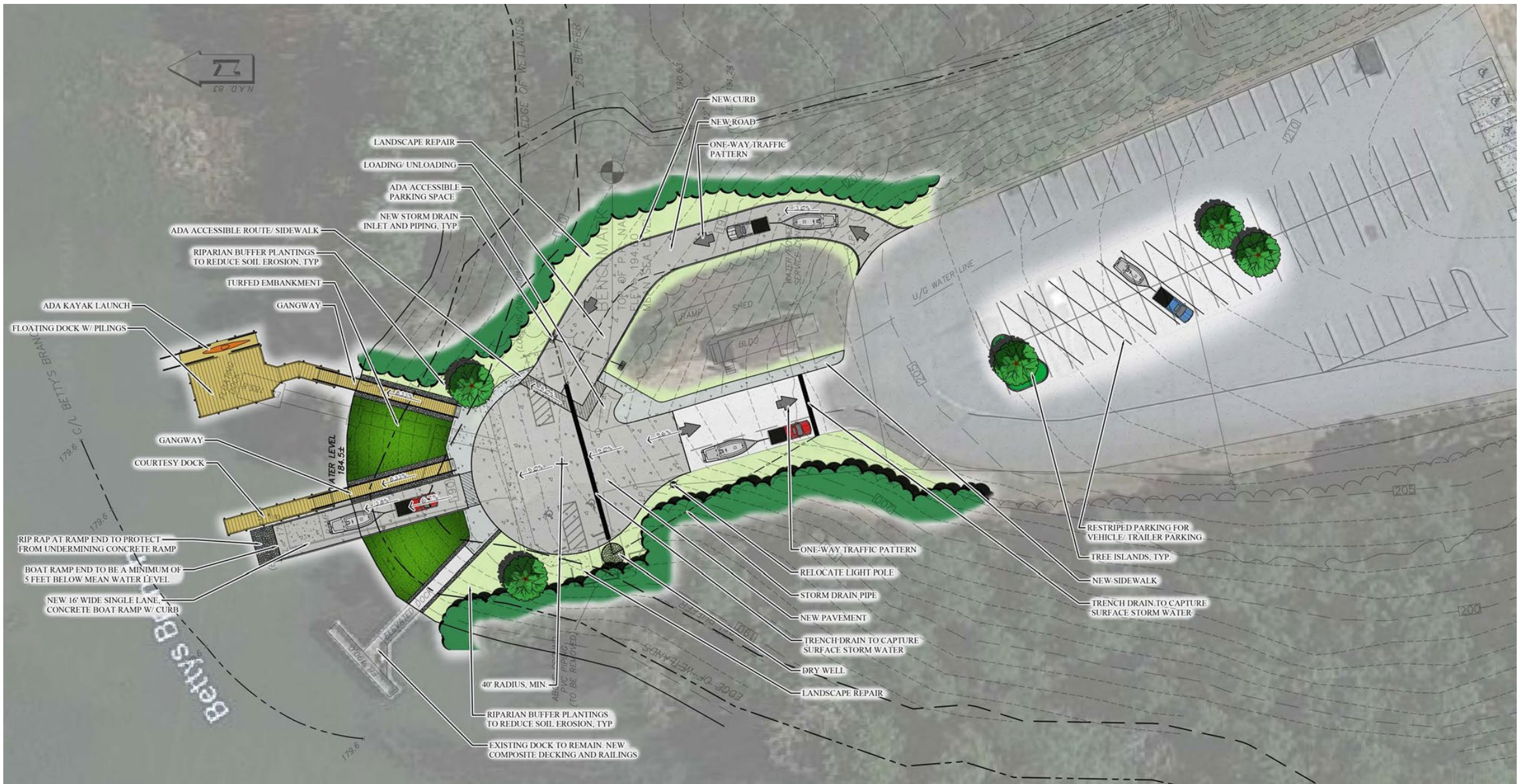
Facilities and Proposed Enhancements: Betty's Branch

► Facilities:

- A small parking lot with four ADA-compliant parking spaces;
- One concrete boat ramp;
- One barrier free fishing pier;
- An ADA-compliant canoe/kayak launch; and
- Two picnic tables.

► Proposed Enhancements:

- MOA with Columbia County to provide funding for enhancements in the Project Boundary consistent with County's Master Plan



LANDSCAPE REPAIR
LOADING/ UNLOADING
ADA ACCESSIBLE
PARKING SPACE
NEW STORM DRAIN
INLET AND PIPING, TYP.

ADA ACCESSIBLE ROUTE/ SIDEWALK
RIPARIAN BUFFER PLANTINGS
TO REDUCE SOIL EROSION, TYP.

TURFED EMBANKMENT
GANGWAY

ADA KAYAK LAUNCH

FLOATING DOCK W/ PILINGS

GANGWAY
COURTESY DOCK

WATER LEVEL
184.54

RIP RAP AT RAMP END TO PROTECT
FROM UNDERMINING CONCRETE RAMP

BOAT RAMP END TO BE A MINIMUM OF
5 FEET BELOW MEAN WATER LEVEL

NEW 16' WIDE SINGLE LANE
CONCRETE BOAT RAMP W/ CURB

40' RADIUS, MIN.
RIPARIAN BUFFER PLANTINGS
TO REDUCE SOIL EROSION, TYP.

EXISTING DOCK TO REMAIN. NEW
COMPOSITE DECKING AND RAILINGS

NEW CURB
NEW ROAD
ONE-WAY TRAFFIC
PATTERN

ONE-WAY TRAFFIC PATTERN

RELOCATE LIGHT POLE

STORM DRAIN PIPE

NEW PAVEMENT

TRENCH DRAIN TO CAPTURE
SURFACE STORM WATER

DRY WELL

LANDSCAPE REPAIR

RESTRIPED PARKING FOR
VEHICLE/ TRAILER PARKING

TREE ISLANDS, TYP.

NEW SIDEWALK

TRENCH DRAIN TO CAPTURE
SURFACE STORM WATER

U/G WATER LINE

205

200

EDGE OF WETLANDS

25' BUFFER

4 TOP OF PANA
ELEV. 194.00
MEAN SEA LV.

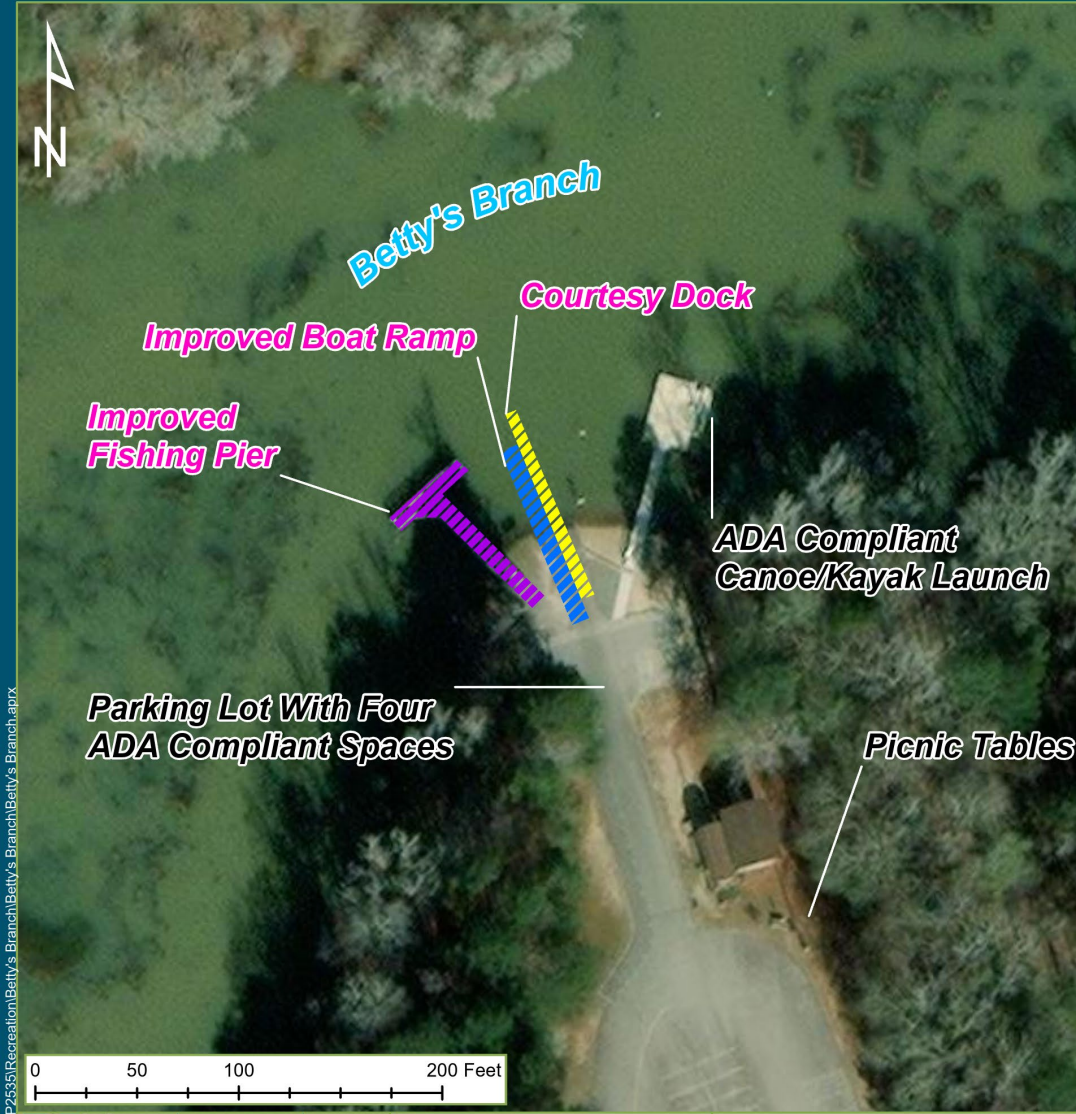
EDGE OF WETLANDS

Betty's Branch
179.6

Betty's Branch
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Recreation Resources- Betty's Branch



Legend

- Boat Ramp
- Courtesy Dock
- Fishing Pier

Pink Text - Proposed Features

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Augusta, GA

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Facilities and Proposed Enhancements: Fury's Ferry

► Facilities:

- A single-lane concrete boat ramp;
- Two picnic tables;
- An unpaved turn-around area;
- A gravel access road;
- An unpaved parking area for approximately eight vehicles, including a mix of vehicles with and without trailers; and
- Safety signage.

► Proposed Enhancements (w/in 4 yrs.):

- Installation of lighting near the boat ramp to improve visibility in the area (DESC will consult with the USFS to determine the type and positioning of lighting);
- Two ADA parking spaces, including one for a vehicle with a trailer;
- Hardened barrier free path to amenities, as appropriate;
- Three picnic tables; and
- An information kiosk.

Recreation Resources- Fury's Ferry



Legend (Proposed Features)

- Proposed Picnic Tables
- Info Kiosk
- Lighting
- Hardened Path
- Parking Spaces

Pink Text - Proposed Features

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Relicensing Schedule Update

Activity	Approx. Timeframe
File Final License Application with FERC	October 27, 2023
FERC Issue Tendering Notice	W/in 14 days
Comments on FLA and Additional Study Requests	60 days after application is filed
FERC Review for Deficiencies	4 months subsequent to filing
FERC Application Acceptance Letter and Intervention Notice	March 1, 2024
NEPA Scoping	Approx. June - October 2024
REA Notice Issued	Approx. February 2025
Comments, Terms, and Conditions/4(e)/10(j)/401 App	60 days after REA
Draft EA Issued	60 days after Ts&Cs Filed
Comments Filed on DEA	w/in 60 days
Final EA and License Issued	October 31, 2025

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, leaving a large white central area. The shapes are composed of triangles and polygons, some with thin white outlines.

Questions?