

**Yadkin Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2197)  
Recreation, Aesthetics, and Shoreline Management IAG Meeting  
November 3, 2004**

**Alcoa Conference Center  
Badin, North Carolina**

**Final Meeting Summary**

**Meeting Agenda**

See Attachment 1.

**Meeting Attendees**

See Attachment 2.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Jody Cason, Long View Associates, opened the meeting with introductions and a review of the meeting agenda. She said that an electronic copy of the *Recreation Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment Draft Study Report* was mailed to the Recreation, Aesthetics, and Shoreline Management IAG on October 15, 2004.

**Review and Discuss Recreation Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment Draft Study Report**

Jody first reviewed the study objectives: 1) describe the available recreation facilities at the Yadkin Project, 2) detail the condition of the available recreation facilities, 3) identify any operational, maintenance, or safety issues at each recreation area, and 4) assess the present adequacies and future accessibility needs for people with disabilities (see Attachment 3 – Meeting Presentation). Jody noted that the study results would be helpful in understanding what facilities are at the Project and what condition they are in. This information can then be used in combination with the results of the Recreation Use Assessment being conducted by ERM, which will provide information on how (recreation type), by whom (resident or visitor), and how often (use estimates) the recreation areas are being used and public perceptions about use and facilities, to look at recreational use and facilities at the Project comprehensively.

Next, Jody reviewed the study methodologies: 1) Develop inventory and condition forms, 2) facility inventory, condition assessment and disabled access assessment, and 3) recreation area and facility mapping and photography. She explained that 40+ recreation areas, three commercial areas, and dispersed recreation areas were all inventoried and assessed in the report. Jody reviewed the criteria to evaluate the condition of the recreation facilities at the Project.

Continuing, Jody began reviewing the results of the study. She described how the information for each recreation area was summarized in the draft report. She then showed tables for each of the

four Project reservoirs (see Attachment 3) which summarized the major recreation facilities (boat ramps and docks, fishing piers, swim areas, campgrounds, and picnic areas) at each public access recreation area. She noted that the information in the report also discusses the sanitary facilities (bathrooms, trash receptacles, etc), access and parking, and bank fishing opportunities available at each recreation area. Jody also explained that the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) had posted “no-parking” signs at a couple of the pull-off fishing access areas that had been included in prior FERC Form 80 reports as recreation areas (e.g. the Highway 47 and Abbotts Creek/Highway 8 fishing areas) and therefore, these areas are essentially “closed”. The NCDOT and Yadkin shared concerns about the potentially unsafe interactions between vehicles and pedestrians at these areas. She noted that some bank fishing areas, such as Crane Creek, do have facilities and remain open. Larry Jones, High Rock Lake Association, suggested that these recreation areas not be discussed in the final report or, at a minimum, not be included in the list of major facilities available at the Project. Chris Goudreau, NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), recommended leaving the discussion of the pull-off fishing access areas in the final report, so that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is aware of the conditions at these recreation areas and why they have been “closed”. Based on the discussion, Jody suggested that the discussion of these areas stay in the report, but the summary and summary tables not include these areas as major recreation areas.

Continuing, Jody reviewed the major facilities available at each of the recreation areas on High Rock, Tuckertown, Narrows, and Falls reservoirs. She noted any plans to add or modify the facilities currently available.

David Wright, US Forest Service, noted that there are plans underway to improve and add facilities (e.g. a picnic area) to the Kings Mountain Point access area. He asked that this information be included in the final report.

Jody briefly reviewed the major recreational facilities available at the three commercial areas included in the report: High Rock Marina and Campground, Tamarac Marina, and Fish Tales Marina. Larry Jones asked why only three commercial areas were included in the inventory and assessment when there are many other commercial areas at the Project reservoirs. Jody explained that these are the areas that had been looked at historically and included in the Final Study Plan.

Next, Jody discussed the inventory of dispersed recreation areas around the four Project reservoirs. She said that generally, “dispersed recreation” occurs along the entire shoreline, but is pervasive on islands and along non-private forested shorelines. A total of 41 high-use dispersed recreation areas are discussed in the draft report. Jody noted that bank fishing and camping appear to be the primary uses at these areas. Larry Jones asked if APGI allows camping on their property. Jody answered no – camping is prohibited on APGI property and noted that “no camping” signs are posted on these properties. Larry questioned why this information on dispersed recreation is included in the report. Jody explained that the purpose of looking at these areas was to see if there is a recreational use/need at the Project not currently being met (e.g. camping). David Wright supported leaving the information about dispersed recreation areas in the study report. He said that dispersed use at these areas may show a demand, for camping, that is not currently being met. Pete Petree, SaveHighRockLake.org, suggested that these areas be characterized differently than the other more formal recreation areas provided by APGI.

In summary, Jody showed a breakdown of recreation facilities by reservoir and by county (see Attachment 3). Todd Ewing, NCWRC, asked that “bank fishing area” be added to these summary tables as a recreation facility. Jody agreed to add this information to the summary tables.

Continuing, Jody explained that another component of the study was to evaluate the availability of the recreational facilities at varying water levels. Larry Jones asked that the report avoid generalizations such as “a fall/winter drawdown”, when discussing the availability of facilities at varying water levels, because drawdowns at the reservoir are not just seasonal – drawdowns can occur at any time. Jody noted that Table 9 in the report provides specific information about when a specific facility at a given recreation area might become unusable (e.g. “boat ramp is usable at drawdowns of 9-ft or less”). Pete Petree commented that the Southmont Boat Access Area is one of the last sites to become unusable (the draft study report says that the boat ramp is periodically closed when the reservoir draw is greater than 5-ft). Bob Smet, APGI, noted that one of the launch ramps at this recreation area becomes unusable at a 5-ft draw, but the others do not. Jody agreed to make this distinction in the final report. Don Seitz, Concerned Property Owners High Rock Lake, commented that it is not stream flow, but reservoir elevation that impacts the availability of some of these facilities. Jody agreed to look at how this issue is discussed in the report.

Continuing, Jody reviewed the highlights of the condition and safety assessments (see Attachment 3). Generally, the recreation facilities at the Yadkin Project are well maintained and in good condition. A few facilities (vandalized trash receptacles, signs, etc.) may need to be replaced. Specific to public safety, APGI has updated its Public Safety Plan, provided safety and rescue equipment at swimming areas, posted bi-lingual signs, and funded additional county patrols.

Another component of the study was to assess the availability of “barrier-free” recreation. Jody described a barrier-free facility as a facility free of impediments to safe use and passage to persons with disabilities or handicaps. She noted that the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines can be very cumbersome, but generally barrier-free facilities should be designed so that they can be approached, entered, and used by people with disabilities. Jody reviewed some typical impediments to barrier-free access (no curb-cuts, improperly surfaced walk and decking etc.). In summary, three recreation areas at the Project are or will be (in the near future) barrier-free: Flat Creek Boat Access Area, Circle Drive Boat Access Area, and the Cove Boat Access Area (with the exception of the bathroom facilities). Jody added that many other recreation areas have some barrier-free facilities and will only require minor modifications to make the recreation area completely accessible. Jody suggested that efforts to improve barrier-free accessibility should focus on boating and fishing (the predominant uses).

Chris Goudreau said that while some recommendations seem fairly obvious, such as this one about focusing barrier-free opportunities on the predominant recreation uses at the Project (boating and fishing), a link has yet to be made to the Recreation Use Assessment being conducted by ERM. Chris asked if this link would be made in the final study reports and if so, which study report would include final conclusions about recreational use, opportunities, and

facilities. Jody agreed that there is more relevant information being collected as part of the Recreation Use Assessment, which will need to be integrated with the inventory information to understand the bigger picture. She was not sure if the final reports would stand alone, or if one or both reports would integrate the information. Chris suggested that, at a minimum, the reports be clear that any recommendations made within the study report are based solely on that study. Wendy Bley, Long View Associates, added that both of the reports should cross-reference the other.

Jody Cason solicited additional comments on the draft study report. Pete Petree commented that he thought that the reservoir itself is a recreational facility and asked if bridge clearance and exposed tree stumps should have been discussed as a recreational safety issue. He said that at a 6 to 8-ft drawdown, a large portion of the reservoir becomes hazardous. He asked that these issues be addressed in the final study report. Jody explained that the Recreation Use Assessment asked very specific questions about water levels and perceived safety hazards. She thought Pete's specific issues would be discussed in the Recreation Use Assessment draft study report.

Todd Ewing asked if APGI could generate maps that show just fishing areas, boating areas etc. that could then be included in the final report. Jody agreed to look at the GIS data layers that are available to see what can easily be done. Todd also asked about the future of the Highway 49 Boat Access Area when NCDOT widens Highway 49. Gene Ellis, APGI, stated that APGI had looked at options for relocating this access area, but there really are no good alternatives. Gene said that the area will likely stay open until the widening of the highway occurs. Todd said that if the Highway 49 Boat Access Area is closed, use may shift to the Flat Creek Boat Access Area, which may become an issue.

Jody asked that all comments on the draft study report be submitted by Friday, December 3, 2004.

### **Update on Status of ERM's Recreation Use Assessment**

Jody stated that the *Recreation Use Assessment Draft Study Report* will probably be out for review and comment by year end. She said that all the survey work was complete and that ERM had collected 7,052 spot counts, 966 visitor use surveys, 186 tailwater use surveys, 5 canoe portage registrations, 1,764 resident use surveys, 125 private community use surveys, 18 business and organization phone surveys, and 71 Uwharrie National Forest recreation surveys.

Jody added that all the survey work and photography for the aesthetic studies is complete and that draft study reports are anticipated after the first of the year.

### **Closing**

When asked about the status of the SMP Comparison Study, Jody answered that a final study report was distributed in September 2004 and that any further SMP discussions would be in the settlement negotiations.

The meeting adjourned at about 10:30 a.m.

**Attachment 1 – Meeting Agenda**

**Yadkin Project  
(FERC No. 2197)**

**Communications Enhanced Three-Stage Relicensing Process**

**Recreation, Aesthetics and Shoreline Management  
Issue Advisory Group Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 3, 2004**

**Alcoa Conference Center**

**Badin, North Carolina**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon**

**Preliminary Agenda**

1. Introductions, Review Agenda
2. Review and Discuss Recreation Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment Draft Study Report
3. Update on Status of ERM's Recreation Use Assessment

## **Attachment 2 – Meeting Attendees**

Andy Abramson, Land Trust  
Bob Smet, APCI Yadkin Division  
Bob Warren, Uwharrie Point Community Association  
Chip Conner, Uwharrie Point Community Association  
Chris Goudreau, NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
David Wright, US Forest Service  
Dean Barbee, NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
Don Seitz, Concerned Property Owners High Rock Lake  
Donley Hill, US Forest Service  
Gene Ellis, APCI Yadkin Division  
Gerritt Jobsis, SC Coastal Conservation League and American Rivers  
Greg Scarborough, Rowan/Salisbury Association of Realtors  
Jody Cason, Long View Associates  
John Ellis, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Larry Jones, High Rock Lake Association  
Lee Hinson, Concerned Property Owners High Rock Lake  
Mark Bowers, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mark Oden, High Rock Lake Business Owners Group  
Marshall Olson, APCI Yadkin Division  
Mel Wofford, High Rock Lake Association  
Robert Petree, Save High Rock Lake  
Roy Rowe, Piedmont Boat Club  
Shannon Deaton, NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
Steve Reed, NC Division of Water Resources  
Stuart Andrews, Concerned Property Owners High Rock Lake  
Todd Ewing, NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
Wendy Bley, Long View Associates

**Attachment 3 – Meeting Presentation**

# Recreation Facilities Inventory and Condition Assessment Draft Study Report

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Recreation, Aesthetics,  
and Shoreline  
Management IAG Meeting  
November 3, 2004

## Study Objectives

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As outlined in the Final Study Plan (October 2003),  
the study aims to:

- ❑ Describe the available recreation facilities at the Yadkin Project
- ❑ Detail the condition of the available recreation facilities
- ❑ Identify any operational, maintenance, or safety issues at each recreation area
- ❑ Assess the present adequacies and future accessibility needs for people with disabilities



## Study Methodologies

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### 1. Develop inventory and condition forms

Three inventory forms used:

- ❑ Facilities Inventory and Condition Form
- ❑ Recreation Facility Disabled Access Assessment
- ❑ USFS Recreation Site Inventory Form

## Study Methodologies

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### 2. Facility Inventory, Condition and Disabled Access Assessment

- ❑ Each recreation area visited and inventoried one or more times (August 2003 – May 2004)
- ❑ Inventory reflective of facilities observed on a specific day
- ❑ Inventory of recreation areas within the UNF conducted with USFS staff
- ❑ Availability of recreation facilities at varying reservoir elevations was evaluated
- ❑ Each facility evaluated for handicapped accessibility
- ❑ Interviews conducted with managers of recreation areas

## Study Methodologies - Recreation Areas

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- ❑ Approximately 40 public access recreation areas provide access to Yadkin Project lands and/or waters
- ❑ Four canoe portage trails
- ❑ Other commercial enterprises provide recreational access to the Project (three included in this study)
- ❑ Dispersed recreation areas

## Study Methodologies – Recreation Facilities

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- ❑ Boat launching ramps
- ❑ Boat docks
- ❑ Fishing piers
- ❑ Swimming areas
- ❑ Beaches
- ❑ Picnic areas
- ❑ Campgrounds
- ❑ Canoe portage trails
- ❑ Pedestrian and vehicular access
- ❑ Sanitary facilities
- ❑ Utilities

## Study Methodologies – Condition Assessment

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The condition of each facility was rated using the following criteria:

Condition	Explanation
(N) Needs Replacement	Broken or missing components, or non-functional
(R) Needs Repair	Structural damage or otherwise in obvious disrepair
(M) Needs Maintenance	Ongoing maintenance issue, primarily cleaning
(G) Good condition	Functional and well-maintained

## Study Methodologies

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3. Recreation area and facility mapping and photography.

- ▣ Major facilities at each recreation area were photographed
- ▣ Sites were sketched and measured by hand and geo-referenced using GPS
- ▣ CAD drawings

## Study Results

The following information is included in the draft study report for each recreation area:

- ❑ Name and location
- ❑ Owner/operator
- ❑ Types of recreational activities
- ❑ Availability of facilities at varying water levels
- ❑ Age of facilities
- ❑ Plans for upgrades or new facilities
- ❑ Site regulations
- ❑ O&M and safety issues
- ❑ Photographs and sketch
- ❑ Facility inventory and condition assessment
- ❑ Barrier-free assessment

## High Rock Reservoir

<i>High Rock Reservoir</i>		<i>Major Facilities</i>					
<i>Site Name</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Boat Ramp</i>	<i>Boat Dock</i>	<i>Fishing Pier</i>	<i>Swim Area</i>	<i>Camp-ground</i>	<i>Picnic Area</i>
York Hill Boat Access	Davidson	✓					
Southmont Boat Access Area	Davidson	✓	✓				✓
Highway 47 Fishing Pull-off	Davidson	Pull-off Bank Fishing Area					
Buddle Creek Boat Access Area	Davidson	✓	✓		✓		✓
Abbotts Creek/NC Highway 8 Bridge Pull-off	Davidson	Pull-off Bank Fishing Area					
Flat Swamp Boat Access	Davidson	✓	✓		✓		✓

## High Rock Reservoir

<i>High Rock Reservoir</i>		<i>Major Facilities</i>					
<i>Site Name</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Boat Ramp</i>	<i>Boat Dock</i>	<i>Fishing Pier</i>	<i>Swim Area</i>	<i>Camp-ground</i>	<i>Picnic Area</i>
Highway 601 Access Area	Davie	✓					
Rowan County Pump Station Access Area	Rowan	✓					
Crane Creek Fishing Pull-off Access Area	Rowan	Pull-off Bank Fishing Area					
Little Crane Creek Fishing Access	Rowan	Bank Fishing Area					
Dutch Second Creek Boat Access	Rowan	✓	✓				
High Rock Dam Canoe Portage	Rowan	Portage Trail					

## Tuckertown Reservoir

<i>Tuckertown Reservoir</i>		<i>Major Facilities</i>					
<i>Site Name</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Boat Ramp</i>	<i>Boat Dock</i>	<i>Fishing Pier</i>	<i>Swim Area</i>	<i>Camp-ground</i>	<i>Picnic Area</i>
High Rock Dam Tailrace Access	Davidson						
Lick Creek Fishing Pull-off	Davidson	Pull-off Bank Fishing Area					
Newsome Road Access	Davidson	✓					✓
Tuckertown Road Pull-off Fishing Access	Davidson, Montgomery	Pull-off Bank Fishing Areas					
Tuckertown Dam Canoe Portage	Montgomery	Canoe Portage					

## Tuckertown Reservoir

<i>Tuckertown Reservoir</i>		<i>Major Facilities</i>					
<i>Site Name</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Boat Ramp</i>	<i>Boat Dock</i>	<i>Fishing Pier</i>	<i>Swim Area</i>	<i>Camp-ground</i>	<i>Picnic Area</i>
High Rock Dam Tailrace Access	Rowan						✓
Bringle Ferry Boat Access Area	Rowan	✓	✓				
Cedar Creek Fishing Pull-off	Rowan	Pull-off Bank Fishing Area					
Flat Creek Boat Access	Rowan	✓	✓				
Flat Creek Fishing Access	Rowan						
Riles Creek Recreation Area	Rowan						✓
Highway 49 Boat Access Area	Stanly	✓	✓				

## Narrows Reservoir

<i>Narrows Reservoir</i>		<i>Major Facilities</i>					
<i>Site Name</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Boat Ramp</i>	<i>Boat Dock</i>	<i>Fishing Pier</i>	<i>Swim Area</i>	<i>Camp-ground</i>	<i>Picnic Area</i>
Tuckertown Dam Tailrace Access Area	Montgomery						✓
Garr Creek Access	Montgomery	✓					
Circle Drive Boat Access	Montgomery	✓	✓				
Lakemont Access	Montgomery	✓					
UNF Holt's Cabin Picnic Area	Montgomery						✓
UNF King's Mountain Point Walk -in Fishing Pier	Montgomery			✓			
UNF Badin Lake Campground	Montgomery					✓	
UNF Arrowhead Campground	Montgomery					✓	
UNF Cove Boat Landing	Montgomery	✓	✓				✓
Badin Lake Group Camp	Montgomery					✓	

## Narrows Reservoir

<i>Narrows Reservoir</i>		<i>Major Facilities</i>					
<i>Site Name</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Boat Ramp</i>	<i>Boat Dock</i>	<i>Fishing Pier</i>	<i>Swim Area</i>	<i>Camp-ground</i>	<i>Picnic Area</i>
Old Whitney Fishing Pier	Stanly			✓			✓
Old Whitney Boat Access	Stanly	✓	✓				✓
Palmerville Access	Stanly	✓					
Badin Lake Swim and Picnic Area	Stanly				✓		✓
Badin Lake Boat Access	Stanly	✓	✓				✓
Narrows Dam Canoe Portage	Stanly	Canoe Portage					

## Falls Reservoir

<i>Narrows Reservoir</i>		<i>Major Facilities</i>					
<i>Site Name</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Boat Ramp</i>	<i>Boat Dock</i>	<i>Fishing Pier</i>	<i>Swim Area</i>	<i>Camp-ground</i>	<i>Picnic Area</i>
Deep Water Trail Access	Montgomery	✓					
Falls Dam Canoe Portage	Montgomery	Canoe Portage					
Falls Boat Access	Stanly	✓					

## Commercial Areas

Site Name	Reservoir	Boat Ramp	Boat Dock	Fishing Pier	Swim Area	Campground	Picnic Area
High Rock Marina and Campground	High Rock	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Tamarac Marina	High Rock	✓	✓				✓
Fish Tales Marina	Narrows	✓	✓				

## Dispersed Recreation

- ❑ Dispersed recreation generally occurs along the entire shoreline
- ❑ Pervasive on islands and along non-private forested shorelines
- ❑ Camping and bank fishing predominant activity at these areas
- ❑ 41 frequently used sites inventoried
  - High Rock – 12
  - Tuckertown – 12
  - Narrows – 12
  - Falls Reservoir - 5



## Availability of Opportunities and Facilities – By Reservoir

<i>Reservoir</i>	<i>Total Number of Public Recreation Areas</i>	<i>Boat Ramp</i>	<i>Boat Dock</i>	<i>Fishing Pier</i>	<i>Swim Area</i>	<i>Camp-ground</i>	<i>Picnic Area</i>
High Rock	12	9	4	0	2	0	4
Tuckertown	12	6	4	0	0	0	3
Narrows (Badin)	16	10	7	2	1	3	7
Falls	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total for All Reservoirs	43	27	15	2	3	3	14

## Availability of Opportunities and Facilities – By County

<i>County</i>	<i>Number of Reservoirs With Access</i>	<i>Total Number of Public Recreation Areas</i>	<i>Boat Ramp</i>	<i>Boat Dock</i>	<i>Fishing Pier</i>	<i>Swim Area</i>	<i>Camp-ground</i>	<i>Picnic Area</i>
Davie	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Davidson	2	10	7	3	0	2	0	5
Montgomery	3	14	8	4	1	0	3	3
Rowan	2	11	5	3	0	0	0	2
Stanly	3	8	6	5	1	1	0	4
Total for All Counties	4	44	27	15	2	3	3	14

## Availability of Facilities at Varying Water Levels

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- ❑ Depending on available stream flow, during the recreation season, all boat ramps and facilities on High Rock and Narrows Reservoir remain usable
- ❑ When High Rock is drawdown in the fall/winter, some facilities may become unusable
- ❑ Specifically, the Southmont, Buddle Creek, Dutch Second Creek and Flat Swamp access areas may be affected by the drawdown
- ❑ All boat ramps on Narrows generally unaffected by normal reservoir operations, but may be affected during periods of low inflow

## Condition of Recreation Facilities

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- ❑ Generally, facilities well maintained and in good condition
- ❑ Several new boat docks and/or ramps installed recently
- ❑ Existing plans to upgrade facilities (e.g. Lakemont, UNF Badin Lake Campground, and UNF Cove Boat Landing)
- ❑ Few facilities need repair/replacement (boat ramps; vandalized trash receptacles, signs, and picnic tables; parking areas and access roads; sanitation issues)
- ❑ Recommendation to close or reconstruct some areas (Rowan County Pump Station, Newsome Road Access, Holt's Cabin, Lakemont)

## Public Safety at Recreation Areas

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- ❑ Increased effort to improve public safety
- ❑ Recent update to Public Safety Plan
- ❑ Provision of safety and rescue equipment
- ❑ Posting of bi-lingual signs
- ❑ Funding of additional county patrols

## Barrier-free Accessibility

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- ❑ A “barrier-free” facility is free of impediments to safe use and passage to persons with disabilities or handicaps
- ❑ Barrier-free facilities should be designed so that it can be approached, entered, and used by people with disabilities
- ❑ Impediments can include: absence of cuts in the curb around parking lots, improperly surfaced walks and decking, poor transitions, steeply graded access ways
- ❑ Assessment based on Access Board criteria

## Barrier-free Accessibility

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- ❑ Although limited, barrier-free opportunities do exist at the Project
- ❑ Three sites are accessible: Flat Creek, Circle Drive, and Cove Boat Access Areas
- ❑ Several areas have some barrier-free facilities and minor modifications will make them completely accessible:
  - Southmont Boat Access
  - Buddle Creek Boat Access
  - Dutch Second Creek Boat Access
  - Flat Swamp Boat Access
  - Highway 49 Boat Access
  - Old Whitney Boat Access
  - Badin Boat Access
  - UNF Arrowhead Campground
  - Falls Boat Access
- ❑ Efforts to improve barrier-free accessibility should focus on boating and fishing (predominant uses)

In most cases, the absence of an accessible pathway and/or designated parking space are the only remaining improvements necessary to make facilities barrier-free

## Questions/Comments

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Written comments on the draft study plan will be due Friday, December 3, 2004