

15.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the environmental and regulatory setting for recreation in the project area. The chapter also presents the federal, state, and local policies and regulations that determine mitigation requirements, and identifies impacts on recreation that may result from implementation of the proposed project. Mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts are also identified as necessary.

The following sources of information were reviewed to prepare this chapter:

- Environmental Screening Analysis Final Technical Report (URS Corporation 2006)
- Sacramento County General Plan (Sacramento County 1993)
- El Dorado County General Plan (El Dorado County 2004)
- Elk Grove General Plan (City of Elk Grove 2009)
- Folsom General Plan (City of Folsom 1993)
- Rancho Cordova General Plan (City of Rancho Cordova 2006a)

15.2 Environmental Setting

15.2.1 Existing Conditions

15.2.1.1 Existing Recreation Areas

Sacramento and El Dorado Counties manage the majority of recreational areas in the project area. Park facilities include community, regional, state, and school parks, parkways, and recreational facilities. Community parks are generally small in area and are developed for a variety of uses, gatherings, and events that support the community. Parks provide active recreation areas, such as playgrounds, sports fields, sports courts, and picnic areas. Recreation facilities tend to include children/youth, senior, performing arts, and aquatic centers.

The proposed project would traverse recreational areas in Sacramento County, El Dorado County, Rancho Cordova, and Elk Grove. Table 15-1 lists the parks and recreational facilities within 800 feet of the project corridor. Note that all parks and recreational facilities fall outside city limits, except for a small portion of Mather Regional Park, which is within Rancho Cordova. See Figure 15-1 for a graphical representation of this information.

Table 15-1. Park and Recreation Land Potentially Affected by the Proposed Project and Design Alternative/Options

Proposed Project/Design Options	Facility Name	Affected Acreage	Total Affected Acreage
Sacramento County			
Proposed Project	Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA)	38.60	38.60
Off-Corridor Multi-Use Path	–	0	0
Kammerer Road Bypass Option	–	0	0
Deer Creek Causeway—Option 1	–	0	0
Deer Creek Causeway—Option 2	–	0	0
Sheldon Reduced Access Roadway	–	0	0
Sheldon High Access Roadway	–	0	0
El Dorado County			
Proposed Project	Creekside Greens Park	3.69	
	Unidentified Regional Park	33.74	37.43
Off-Corridor Multi-Use Path	–	0	0
Kammerer Road Bypass Option	–	0	0
Deer Creek Causeway-Option 1	–	0	0
Deer Creek Causeway-Option 2	–	0	0
Sheldon Reduced Access Roadway	–	0	0
Sheldon High Access Roadway	–	0	0
Source: See Figure 15-1 for data sources.			
Note: – = not applicable/no information.			

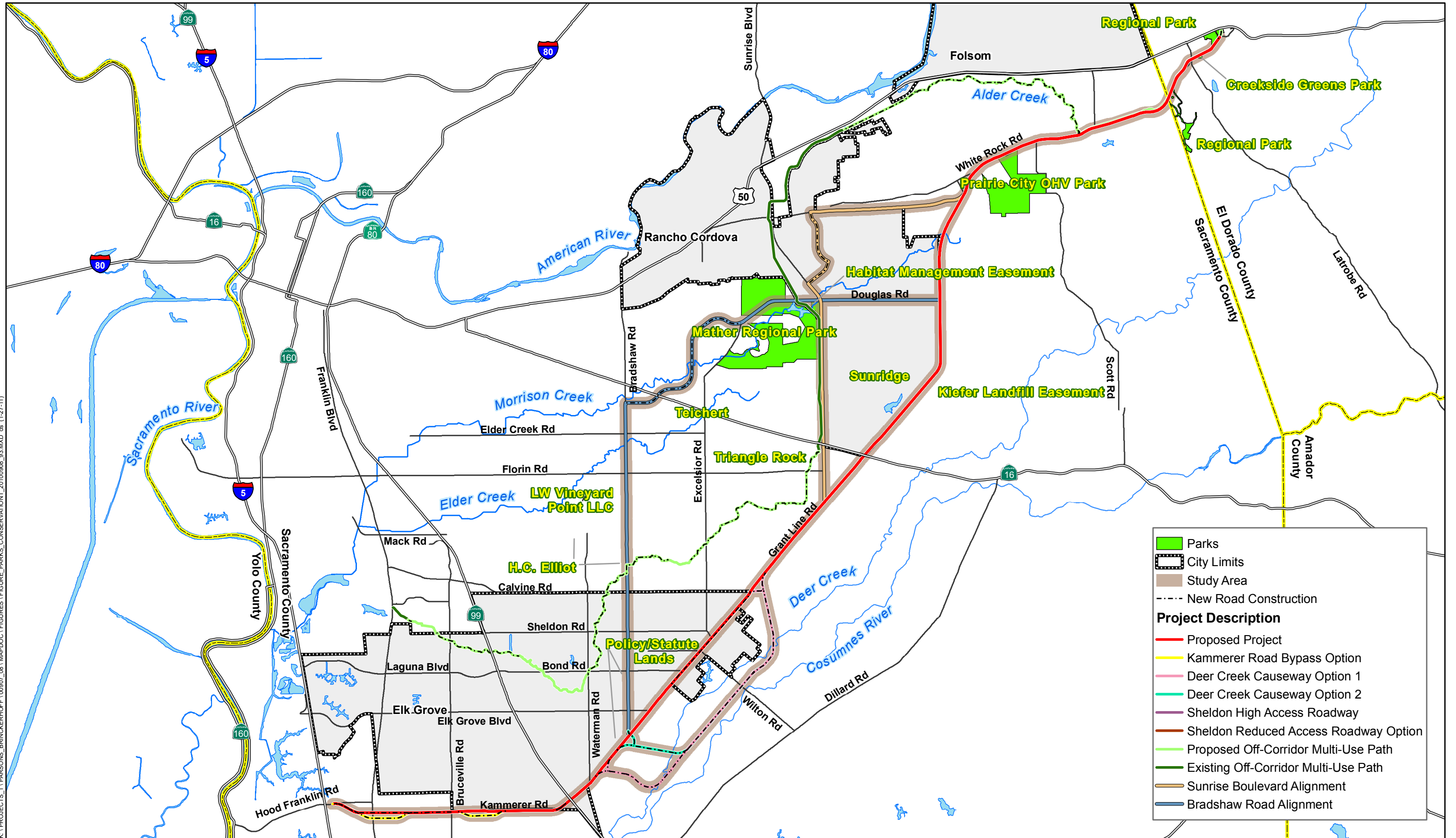
15.2.2 Regulatory Setting

15.2.2.1 State

California Department of Parks and Recreation

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has as its principal mission to provide sites for a variety of recreational and outdoor activities, as well as natural resource management and protection. Different park designations dictate the extent to which natural resources are a management priority; natural preserves, state parks, state reserves, and state wilderness designations indicate that the area has outstanding natural features. DPR is a trustee agency that administers all state parks and participates in land use planning that affects state park land.

The 836-acre Prairie City State Vehicular Recreational Area is located south of the proposed Connector at Prairie City Road. It offers off-highway vehicle users trails and facilities for off-road riding and the Hangtown MX track for racing.



Legend

- Parks
- City Limits
- Study Area
- New Road Construction

Project Description

- Proposed Project
- Kammerer Road Bypass Option
- Deer Creek Causeway Option 1
- Deer Creek Causeway Option 2
- Sheldon High Access Roadway
- Sheldon Reduced Access Roadway Option
- Proposed Off-Corridor Multi-Use Path
- Existing Off-Corridor Multi-Use Path
- Sunrise Boulevard Alignment
- Bradshaw Road Alignment

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Data Layers Provided by Sacramento County GIS Department, Sacramento County Planning Department, SACOG, El Dorado County, El Dorado County Planning Department, The US Fish and Wildlife Service, and USGS



Parks and Recreation Areas

Figure 15-1

Plot Date
January 27, 2011

Public Park Preservation Act

The Public Park Preservation Act of 1971 (PRC 5400 to 5409) states that no city, county, public district, public utility, or agency of the state (including any division, department, or agency of the state government) shall acquire property in use as a public park to use for another purpose, unless the acquiring party provides sufficient compensation or land, or both, to allow replacement of the park land and associated facilities. The acquiring entity must provide one of the following:

The cost of acquiring substitute park land of comparable characteristics and of substantially equal size located in an area which would allow for use of the substitute park land and facilities by generally the same persons who used the existing park land and facilities, and the cost of acquiring substitute facilities of the same type and number, plus the cost of development of such substitute park land, including the placing of such substitute facilities thereon.

Substitute park land of comparable characteristics and of substantially equal size located in an area which would allow for use of the substitute park land by generally the same persons who used the existing park land, and the cost of acquiring substitute facilities of the same type and number, plus the cost of development of such substitute park land, including the placing of such substitute facilities thereon.

Any combination of substitute park land and compensation in an amount sufficient to provide substitute park land of comparable characteristics and of substantially equal size located in an area which would allow for use of the substitute park land and facilities by generally the same persons who used the existing park land and facilities, and to provide substitute facilities of the same type and number, plus the cost of development of such substitute park land, including the placing of such substitute facilities thereon.

In addition, the operating entity of the purchased park land must acquire substitute park land and facilities.

There are some exceptions to the provisions of the act. The provisions do not apply to acquisition of public park land for the construction or maintenance of underground utility services. If it is not feasible to place utility services or facilities underground, the provisions do not apply to public utilities providing services to the public park. If a public utility acquires the property as a waterway, and it is determined by majority vote of the legislative body of the park that the waterway would preserve or enhance the recreational or aesthetic values of the park, the provisions of the act do not apply. In addition, if less than 10% of the park land, but no more than 1 acre, is acquired, the operating entity may use funds to improve the remaining portion of park land and facilities with the approval of the legislative body by majority vote.

15.2.2.2 Local Regulations

The cities and counties within the Sacramento Region have stated goals, objectives, and policies in their respective general plan documents related to parks and recreation. Proponents of specific projects must comply with the goals, objectives, and policies stated in the respective city or county general plan. Table 15-2 lists the specific general plan elements/sections that apply to recreational resources. As discussed above, the proposed project only traverses recreation areas within Sacramento County, El Dorado County, Rancho Cordova, and Elk Grove.

Table 15-2. Applicable Local General Plans

Jurisdiction	Document	Section
El Dorado County	General Plan (2004)	Parks and Recreation/Conservation and Open Space Elements
Sacramento County	General Plan (1993) ^a	Open Space Element
City of Elk Grove	General Plan (2009)	Conservation and Parks/Trails/Open Space Elements
City of Rancho Cordova	General Plan (2006a)	Natural Resources and Parks/Trails/Open Space Elements

^a As of preparation of this document, the County of Sacramento General Plan Update is in the final approval stage before the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors.

15.3 Impact and Mitigation Discussion

15.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines identifies environmental issues to be considered when determining whether a project could have significant impacts on the environment. The project would have a significant impact on recreation if it would:

- increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated, or
- include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

15.3.2 Approach and Methods

To determine impacts resulting from proposed project and design option implementation, an analysis of affected recreational land was performed. This evaluation of impacts is at a program level. Components of the proposed project and project options may require further project-level environmental review at a later time.

15.3.3 Impacts of the Proposed Project

Impact REC-1: Increased Use of Existing Neighborhood and Regional Parks or Other Recreational Facilities

The proposed project would help to accommodate planned growth in the region. However, it would not directly result in an increase in population that would substantially increase the use of parks or recreation facilities or lead to their degradation. Rather, the development planned by local jurisdictions would be responsible for the direct contributions in population growth, and those could result in the increased use or degradation of recreation facilities.

As indicated previously, projects would be required to undergo environmental review and mitigate any potential impacts if and when they are constructed. Therefore, impacts resulting from the proposed project are considered less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Impact REC-2: Includes Recreational Facilities or Requires the Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities

Construction of the project could result in temporary construction-related impacts, such as dust, noise, and restricted access to recreational facilities, but these impacts would be temporary and therefore would not substantially affect the long-term use of park facilities. Consequently, construction impacts would be less-than-significant impact.

As indicated above, the proposed project would help to accommodate planned growth by providing road capacity to meet projected needs and reduce projected congestion along this travel route. However, it would not directly result in an increase in population that would justify the need for additional recreational facilities. Implementation of the proposed project would result in direct impacts on study area parks. Specifically, as shown on Figure 15-1 and listed in Table 15-1, the project alignment is expected to result in the conversion of approximately 38.6 acres of the Prairie City SVRA in Sacramento County and could result in the conversion of approximately 33.74 acres of the unidentified regional park and approximately 3.69 acres of the Creekside Greens Park at the northeast end of the alignment in El Dorado County. Conversion of these lands could result in a potentially significant impact.

Loss of these lands would reduce the ability of the remaining park and recreation facilities to meet current and future needs. The acquisition of additional lands and development of recreation facilities would have their own impacts. The extent of those impacts are unknown because the design of future recreation areas and their locations cannot be known at this time.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure REC-1 would ensure the proposed project would not result in significant impacts from the conversion of recreational lands.

Mitigation Measure REC-1: Conduct Project-Level Assessment of Impacts on Recreational Resources

To determine the specific impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed project and its design options on recreation, a project-level assessment of impacts will be conducted by the JPA or local agency undertaking later projects. This study shall determine the specific recreational qualities and facilities significantly affected by the project, in consultation with the agency(ies) with jurisdiction over the recreational resources. The JPA or local agency will provide, in cooperation with the affected agency(ies), 1) land of equal quality and with similar characteristics will be secured by the JPA or local agency to compensate for the loss of existing recreational resources at a ratio of at least 1:1 or 2) sufficient enhancements to the existing parks. The JPA or local agency may provide these lands by acquiring them and dedicating them to the affected agency(ies) or by providing the affected agency(ies) with in lieu fees sufficient to acquire the lands and replace the lost facilities, at the option of the affected agency.

15.3.4 Impacts of the Off-Corridor Multi-Use Path Alternative

Impact REC-1: Increased Use of Existing Neighborhood and Regional Parks or Other Recreational Facilities

Implementation of the Off-Corridor Multi-Use Path Alternative could increase the use of the existing off-corridor multi-use path because it would be an expansion and improvement of this recreational resource, but it would not put increased pressure on any already overused recreational facilities; it would provide additional capacity of an existing facility. Therefore, the impact would be less-than-significant.

Impact REC-2: Includes Recreational Facilities or Requires the Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities

As shown in Figure 15-1 and Table 15-1, implementation of the Off-Corridor Multi-Use Path Alternative would not impact any existing recreation facilities. In fact, implementation of this alternative would provide an additional recreational resource, resulting in a positive impact on recreation.

15.3.5 Impacts of the Project Options

15.3.5.1 Kammerer Road Bypass Option

Impact REC-1: Increased Use of Existing Neighborhood and Regional Parks or Other Recreational Facilities

Implementation of the Kammerer Road Bypass Option would help to accommodate planned growth in the region. However, it would not directly result in an increase in population that would substantially increase the use of parks or recreation facilities or lead to their degradation. Rather, the development planned by local jurisdictions would be responsible for the direct contributions in population growth, and those could result in the increased use or degradation of recreation facilities. Therefore, impacts resulting from the Kammerer Road Bypass Option are considered less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Impact REC-2: Includes Recreational Facilities or Requires the Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities

As shown in Figure 15-1 and Table 15-1, implementation of the Kammerer Road Bypass Option would not impact any recreation facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

15.3.5.2 Deer Creek Causeway Option 1

Impact REC-1: Increased Use of Existing Neighborhood and Regional Parks or Other Recreational Facilities

Implementation of the Deer Creek Causeway Option 1 would help to accommodate planned growth in the region. However, it would not directly result in an increase in population that would substantially increase the use of parks or recreation facilities or lead to their degradation. Rather, the development planned by local jurisdictions would be responsible for the direct contributions in

population growth, and those could result in the increased use or degradation of recreation facilities. Therefore, impacts resulting from the Deer Creek Causeway Option 1 are considered less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Impact REC-2: Includes Recreational Facilities or Requires the Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities

As shown in Figure 15-1 and Table 15-1, implementation of Deer Creek Causeway Option 1 would not result in conversion of recreational facilities. Therefore, there is no impact.

15.3.5.3 Deer Creek Causeway Option 2

Impact REC-1: Increased Use of Existing Neighborhood and Regional Parks or Other Recreational Facilities

Implementation of Deer Creek Causeway Option 2 would help to accommodate planned growth in the region. However, it would not directly result in an increase in population that would substantially increase the use of parks or recreation facilities or lead to their degradation. Rather, the development planned by local jurisdictions would be responsible for the direct contributions in population growth, and those could result in the increased use or degradation of recreation facilities. Therefore, impacts resulting from the Deer Creek Causeway Option 2 are considered less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Impact REC-2: Includes Recreational Facilities or Requires the Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities

As shown in Figure 15-1 and Table 15-1, implementation of Deer Creek Causeway Option 2 would not result in conversion of park lands. Therefore, there would be no impact.

15.3.5.4 Sheldon Reduced Access Roadway Option

Impact REC-1: Increased Use of Existing Neighborhood and Regional Parks or Other Recreational Facilities

Implementation of the Sheldon Reduced Access Roadway Option would help to accommodate planned growth in the region. However, it would not directly result in an increase in population that would substantially increase the use of parks or recreation facilities or lead to their degradation. Rather, the development planned by local jurisdictions would be responsible for the direct contributions in population growth, and those could result in the increased use or degradation of recreation facilities. Therefore, impacts resulting from the Sheldon Reduced Access Roadway Option are considered less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Impact REC-2: Includes Recreational Facilities or Requires the Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities

As shown in Figure 15-1 and Table 15-1, implementation of the Sheldon Reduced Access Roadway Option would not result in conversion of recreational facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

15.3.5.5 Sheldon High Access Roadway Option

Impact REC-1: Increased Use of Existing Neighborhood and Regional Parks or Other Recreational Facilities

Implementation of the Sheldon High Access Roadway Option would help to accommodate planned growth in the region. However, it would not directly result in an increase in population that would substantially increase the use of parks or recreation facilities or lead to their degradation. Rather, the development planned by local jurisdictions would be responsible for the direct contributions in population growth, and those could result in the increased use or degradation of recreation facilities. Therefore, impacts resulting from the Sheldon High Access Roadway Option are considered less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Impact REC-2: Includes Recreational Facilities or Requires the Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities

As shown in Figure 15-1 and Table 15-1, implementing the Sheldon High Access Roadway Option would not result in conversion of recreational facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.