Strategic planning
Insert Figure 5.3-2 DPR Map
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DPR employs a total of 32 employees at the LOSRA (pers. comm., Steve Feazel, 2003). Park management and patrols are conducted by eleven Rangers, two Supervising Rangers, and one Chief Ranger, who provides support to all 13 units in the Northern Buttes District. General maintenance, including maintenance of all recreation-related facilities, is carried out by four Park Maintenance Worker I employees and two Park Maintenance Worker II employees, with the help of five Park Maintenance Assistants. Maintenance activities are overseen by the Park Maintenance Chief and two Park Maintenance Supervisors. Park and maintenance equipment and grounds are maintained separately by the Grounds Maintenance Technician and the Heavy Equipment Mechanic and Helper Mechanic, who provide support services to the 13 units in the Northern Buttes District. Utilities in the LOSRA are overseen by the Water/Sewer Plant Supervisor. In addition to LOSRA staff, the Northern Buttes District administrative staff, Interpretive Specialist, Resource Ecologist, Engineer and Landscape Architect provide additional aid to all units in the district. DPR often hires additional seasonal support staff in the summer to operate entrance stations and carry out basic facility maintenance tasks.

Routine tasks performed by DPR staff include cleaning and maintaining restroom and toilet facilities; servicing refuse bins; maintaining camping and day use areas, including launch ramps, courtesy docks, and 47 miles of trails; monitoring and maintaining buoys and vessels; and maintaining recreation area grounds. DPR is also responsible for carrying out boat safety inspections and providing the reservoir safety patrol. Less frequent tasks include road maintenance for approximately 21 miles of road, maintenance on all park utilities (including electrical, water, and wastewater facilities), and maintenance of all recreational facilities. In addition to DPR, two private concessionaires and their staffs operate and maintain facilities at Bidwell Canyon and Lime Saddle marinas subject to DPR contracts and oversight. DPR also manages the Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) outside of the LOSRA and adjacent to the OWA.

Aside from routine operations and maintenance throughout the Recreation Area, DPR’s most pressing management issues in the Study Area include management of culturally sensitive areas, trail management, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, staffing levels, and low water level facilities for marina access. “The Seventh Generation: The Strategic Vision of California State Parks” (DPR 2001) outlines the strategies and management practices that DPR follows in managing parks throughout the State; DPR’s management strategies and practices in the LOSRA include:

- Public involvement: meeting with interest groups and the general public
- Inter-agency involvement: meeting and conferring with other agencies
- Hiring qualified staff
- Contracting professional services
- Seeking alternative funding sources, including grants and reimbursements
- Using data collection to identify and resolve relevant issues
Following Total Quality Management Practices
DPR manages interpretive programs, visitor center activities, special events coordination, and general recreational opportunities using the above practices.

Although DPR manages the majority of LOSRA’s recreational aspects, DWR bears the ultimate responsibility under the current FERC license for ensuring funding, development, and management of current and additional recreation facilities and Feather River Project 2100. As previously mentioned, the Davis-Dolwig Act (Water Code 11910-11925) requires DWR to plan for and acquire land for recreation in conjunction with all state water projects. In keeping with its responsibility, DWR works with DPR and DFG to provide for recreational opportunities and funding throughout the Study Area.

5.3.3 Department of Fish and Game Managed Lands

The DFG is also a department of the California Resources Agency. The mission of the DFG within the state is: “To manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.” DFG manages approximatley 12,000 acres of land, or 17 percent of the total Study Area. Most of this area (11,200 acres) is located within the FERC boundary. DFG manages fish and wildlife habitat and associated recreational use for both surface water and dry lands within the OWA and the LOSRA and operates the Feather River Fish Hatchery. Figure 5.3-3 illustrates the locations of DFG-managed lands, as well as facilities for which the agency is responsible within the Study Area.

Most of the land area for which the DFG provides day-to-day management is within the OWA. The OWA includes the Thermalito Afterbay and a wide swath of wildlife habitat straddling the Feather River low flow channel section of the Project south and west of the City of Oroville. These lands are primarily located within the FERC boundary (Figure 5.3-3). The OWA was formally established by DWR in 1968. Initially, part of this area was known as the Oroville Borrow Area, which was the source of clay and aggregate for the construction of the Lake Oroville Dam. DWR acquired the Oroville Borrow Area in the public interest for fish and wildlife enhancement and recreational use in 1962. By 1968, a total of 5,500 acres were transferred from DWR to DFG for creation of the OWA. The Thermalito Afterbay was added to the OWA almost 20 years later in 1987. Both of these areas were transferred under the provisions of the Davis-Dolwig Act to DFG by the DWR. DFG has been the manager of the OWA since its establishment.