



*Through the Federal Power Act, National Park Service recommends provisions to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to mitigate and enhance conservation and recreation resources associated with licensing dams.*

## Chippewa and Wisconsin Rivers, Wisconsin

### Recreation Enhancements via Post Licensing Assistance

**Prairie du Sac Dam** Whitewater boaters from the University of Wisconsin/American Whitewater requested NPS Hydropower Assistance in improving tail water access conditions, left unaddressed by the dam's relicensing. The tail waters form the upper terminus of the Lower Wisconsin State Scenic Riverway, a free-flowing segment of river that merges with the Mississippi River 60 miles downstream. The tail waters are a virtual convergence point for multiple groups: sturgeon anglers recently immigrated from Poland and Russia to Chicago, recent Hmong immigrants who shoreline fish, local area anglers who fish from boats, whitewater boaters, and Bald Eagle watchers. NPS worked with these groups, natural resource agencies, health agencies, local planning agencies, river preservation groups, Alliant Energy, and FERC to remedy the situation by installing restroom facilities, improving the area's aesthetics, and installing informational signs.

**Jim Falls Dam** Working with Xcel Energy, local white water boating groups, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, NPS Hydropower Assistance staff coordinated an instream recreational flow study for this project. Part of a Settlement Agreement covering six hydropower projects on the Chippewa River, the study goal was to determine appropriate recreational flow releases for the Jim Falls natural river channel, also prime habitat for spawning sturgeon. The results of the study included specifics such as volume, duration, and frequency of flow releases that accommodate both boaters and sturgeon; improved put-in and take-out areas; signage describing the area, and safety precautions. The releases are now eagerly anticipated and actively used by the white water community.

*National Park Service is highly effective in assisting our members and volunteers with important conservation and recreation issues on rivers. The NPS partnership approach provides us with the technical assistance we need to be successful.*

Tom O'Keefe, American Whitewater



*Prairie du Sac Dam*



*Boaters near Jim's Falls*

National Park Service provides technical assistance on recreation and conservation issues to all participants in Hydropower Licensing Proceedings of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. NPS makes recommendations on recreation access and facilities, instream flows for recreation, and protection for riparian corridors and conservation buffer zones. More information on Hydropower Assistance at <http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/hydro/>

For more information about National Park Service project involvement, contact Angie Tornes, [angie\\_tornes@nps.gov](mailto:angie_tornes@nps.gov). Project information on the Jim Falls Project may be found at <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/display/articleid/1174/display/full>