

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 of CHELAN COUNTY
P.O. Box 1231, Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231 • 327 N. Wenatchee Ave., Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 663-8121 • Toll free 1-888-663-8121 • www.chelanpud.org

May 29, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, and
Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr., Deputy Secretary
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: **Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project No. 637**
Article 404 (b) –2015 Fish Stocking Report

Dear Secretary Bose and Deputy Secretary Davis:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued the “Order Modifying and Approving Lake Chelan Fishery Plan, Article 404” on December 4, 2007. The Plan satisfies the License Article 404 requirement of the “Order on Offer of Settlement and Issuing New License”¹ (License) and “Order on Rehearing”² for the Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project (Project) on November 6, 2006, and April 19, 2007, respectively.

Under Ordering Paragraph (B), Chelan County Public Utility District (Chelan PUD) hereby files the Lake Chelan 2015 Fish Stocking Report. The Fish Stocking Report is coordinated and prepared by the Lake Chelan Fish Forum (LCFF) during development of the LCFF’s annual work planning process. Summary tables showing the numbers of fish stocked into Lake Chelan in 2014 and planned stocking levels for 2015 are included in this report. Coordination and consultation with the LCFF on the development of the Fish Stocking Report is attached as Table A.

The Lake Chelan Fishery Plan (LCFP) and Settlement Agreement Article 6(d) require Chelan PUD to make available to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) sufficient funding to rear annually the following resident fish at the Chelan Hatchery for stocking in Lake Chelan: (1) approximately 5,000 pounds of salmonid fingerlings; and (2) approximately 33,000 pounds of catchable-sized salmonids. An Interagency Agreement exists between the Chelan PUD and the WDFW to provide funding for fish rearing and stocking.

¹ 117 FERC ¶ 62,129


² 119 FERC ¶ 61,055

In 2008, the LCFF recommended eliminating stocking catchable-sized rainbow trout in the lake and focusing on stocking catchable-sized westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) as a replacement for rainbow trout. The goal is to enhance WCT population in the lake and tributaries, while still providing for a recreational fishery. Due to the difficulty with rearing a wild-origin stock of WCT in a hatchery environment, this effort has been partially successful. WCT reared at Chelan Hatchery have experienced disease issues, primarily the bacterial pathogen furunculosis, causing significant mortality in recent years. Subsequently, WDFW and Chelan PUD have worked with the LCFF attempting to meet stocking levels with triploid rainbow trout to make up for the shortfall of WCT to support the recreational fishery. The LCFF is aware of the rearing complications and is working with Chelan PUD and WDFW to address the issue through investigating potential alternative water sources and treatments, rearing vessels (round ponds versus raceways), and rearing locations. Chelan PUD is also conducting an evaluation of the Chelan Hatchery to support investigations to improve WCT rearing conditions and survival. The LCFF has remained supportive of continuing efforts to stock all catchable-sized salmonids as WCT and investigating alternatives to achieve the stocking goal to the greatest extent practicable and as soon as possible.

A significant note for 2014 of actual fish stocked into Lake Chelan was 47,483 westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) at 3.5 fish per pound (FPP) were stocked into the lake. This was the first time that WCT of approximate catchable size were stocked into the lake for recreational fishing. This program, in addition to refinements as more is learned regarding culturing wild-origin WCT, will be continued into the future with the goal of producing the entire license stocking production requirement of trout to be WCT and reducing and, eventually, eliminating the stocking of triploid rainbow trout, to the greatest extent practicable.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any questions or comments regarding the fish stocking report.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey G. Osborn
Compliance Program Supervisor
jeff.osborn@chelanpud.org
(509) 661-4176

cc: Erich Gaedeke, FERC-PRO

Enclosure: Table of Consultation Documentation
Lake Chelan Fishery Forum 2015 Fish Stocking Report, Final

Lake Chelan Fishery Forum 2015 Annual Work Plan Comments Regarding Fish Stocking

The Lake Chelan Fishery Forum (LCFF) met on November 20, 2014 to begin developing the 2015 LCFF Annual Work Plan and Fish Stocking Report. For 2015, all LCFF participants supported continuing to rear and stock fish into Lake Chelan to support the recreational fishery. Emails demonstrating Chelan PUD consultation with the LCFF for developing the LCFF Annual Work Plan and Fish Stocking Report are included in Table A below.

TABLE A – CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISH STOCKING REPORT					
From	To	Date	Subject	Fish Stocking Report Comment	Chelan PUD Response
WDFW	Chelan PUD	November 20, 2014 http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/LC_implementation/corres/45408.pdf	Fish stocking and WDFW projects for 2015 LCFF Annual Work Plan	Fish stocking table from WDFW	
WDFW	Chelan PUD	November 24, 2014 http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/LC_implementation/corres/45411.pdf	Fish stocking	Projected fish stocking numbers for 2015	
NPS	Chelan PUD	November 26, 2014 http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/LC_implementation/corres/45421.pdf	2015 LCFF Annual Work Plan	NPS handouts from November 20, 2014 LCFF meeting	

TABLE A – CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISH STOCKING REPORT

From	To	Date	Subject	Fish Stocking Report Comment	Chelan PUD Response
WDFW	Chelan PUD	December 15, 2014 http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/LC_implementation/corres/45412.pdf	Fish stocking	2014 Actual Fish Stocked table	
Chelan PUD	LCFF	January 21, 2015 http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/LC_implementation/corres/45414.pdf	Draft Fish Stocking Report sent to the LCFF for 30-day review	No comments received by 30-day February 20, 2015 comment deadline	
WDFW	Chelan PUD	March 2, 2015 http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/LC_implementation/corres/45413.pdf	First draft 2015 LCFF Annual Work Plan	No comment on fish stocking	
WDFW	WDFW, NPS, USFS	March 5, 2015 http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/LC_implementation/corres/45415.pdf	First draft 2015 LCFF Annual Work Plan	No comment on fish stocking plan/report	

TABLE A – CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISH STOCKING REPORT

From	To	Date	Subject	Fish Stocking Report Comment	Chelan PUD Response
WDFW	Chelan PUD	March 7, 2015 http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/LC_implementation/corres/45417.pdf	USFS approval of draft final 2015 LCFF Annual Work Plan	No comment on fish stocking plan/report	
NPS	Chelan PUD	March 9, 2015 http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/LC_implementation/corres/45418.pdf	NPS edits to draft 2015 LCFF Annual Work Plan	No comment on fish stocking plan/report	
WDFW	Chelan PUD	March 9, 2015 http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/LC_implementation/corres/45419.pdf	WDFW edits to draft 2015 LCFF Annual Work Plan	No comment on fish stocking plan/report	
Chelan PUD	LCFF	March 23, 2015 http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/LC_implementation/corres/45420.pdf	LCFF final review of 2015 LCFF Annual Work Plan	No comment on fish stocking plan/report	

TABLE A – CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISH STOCKING REPORT

From	To	Date	Subject	Fish Stocking Report Comment	Chelan PUD Response
NPS	Chelan PUD	March 24, 2015 http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/LC_implementation/corres/45410.pdf	NPS edits to draft final 2015 LCFF Annual Work Plan	No comment on fish stocking plan/report	
Chelan PUD	LCFF	April 2, 2015 http://www.chelanpud.org/departments/licensingCompliance/LC_implementation/corres/44734.pdf	Final 2015 LCFF Annual Work Plan complete and distributed to LCFF.		

Lake Chelan Fishery Forum 2014 Fish Stocking Report, Final

**Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project
FERC No. 637**

Annual Fish Stocking Report
License Article 404. *Lake Chelan Fishery Plan*

FINAL

May 29, 2015



Prepared by:
Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County
327 North Wenatchee Avenue
Wenatchee, WA 98801

On November 6, 2007, Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (Chelan PUD) filed the Lake Chelan Fishery Plan (LCFP) pursuant to Article 404 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order on Offer of Settlement and Issuing New License dated November 6, 2006 for the Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the LCFP in the Order Modifying and Approving Lake Chelan Fishery Plan, Article 404, dated December 4, 2007. Stated in the Order, under The Director Orders: section (B) is the following:

(B) The licensee shall file with the Commission by June 1, beginning in 2008, their Annual Fish Stocking Report. If any recommended fish enhancement measures are proposed to be implemented in place of stocking, the licensee's report shall be filed for commission approval. The licensee shall allow the Lake Chelan Fisheries Forum 30 days to provide comments and/or recommendations on their report before filing the report with the commission. The filing shall include comments and or recommendations from the Lake Chelan Fisheries Forum and the licensee's response to any comments. Based on review of the report, the Commission reserves the right to require changes to the project to ensure compliance with the license.

This report satisfies Article 404 requirements for annual reporting of activities associated with fish stocking in Lake Chelan. Section 4.6.3 of Chapter 6 of the Lake Chelan Settlement Agreement (SA) Comprehensive Plan requires Chelan PUD to make available to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) sufficient funding to rear annually the following resident fish for stocking in Lake Chelan:

1. Approximately 5,000 pounds of salmonid fingerlings (for example: 500,000 fish at 100 fish/lb, presently kokanee).
2. Approximately 33,000 pounds of catchable-sized salmonids (for example: approximately 100,000 fish at 3 fish/lb, presently westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) and triploid rainbow trout (RBT)).

Chelan PUD has provided funding to WDFW annually for rearing resident fish, primarily at the Chelan Hatchery, described previously since issuance of the Lake Chelan Project operating license in 2006. The Lake Chelan Fishery Forum (LCFF), which is comprised of the signatories to the SA (WDFW, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Yakama Nation, Washington Department of Ecology, Chelan PUD, the Lake Chelan Sportsman's Association, and the city of Chelan), recommended during relicensing negotiations to attempt to reduce, and eventually eliminate, the number of rainbow trout and increase the number of westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) stocked into Lake Chelan. The ultimate goal of the LCFF is to stock only catchable-sized WCT and no rainbow into Lake Chelan to support the recreational fishery and help rebuild the WCT population in the lake. Most (80%) WCT stocked to date have been adipose fin clipped, with fin-clipped trout legal to retain by sport fishers and non-clipped fish required to be released, per WDFW fishing regulations. Additionally, the LCFF has supported efforts by WDFW to stock WCT fry into tributaries to Lake Chelan as an additional effort to help rebuild the WCT population in the Lake Chelan Basin.

Significant efforts have been made between WDFW hatchery personnel and Chelan PUD staff to increase the number of catchable-sized WCT available for stocking into Lake Chelan, including investigating alternative rearing vessels, feed type and methods, rearing vessel habitat/cover, and rearing location. WCT are challenging to rear in the hatchery environment because they are wild-origin fish, with eggs being collected from Twin Lakes broodstock. Twin Lakes stock originated from Lake Chelan, and has been approved by the LCFF for stocking into Lake Chelan.

Planned and actual fish stocking data (stocking location, species, origin, number, fish size, and stocking date) for 2011-2014 are shown in Tables 1 - 8 below (Corey Morrison, Travis Maitland, WDFW, pers. com.). Planned fish stocking data for 2015 are outlined in Table 9 (Corey Morrison, Travis Maitland, WDFW, pers. com.).

Table 1. 2011 Fish Stocking Plan

Location	Species	Stock	Number	No. Fish/lb	Stocking date
Lake Chelan Tributaries					
Four Mile Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	10,000	Eyed eggs	June
Cascade Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	5,000	Fry	June or July
Bear Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	3,000	Fry	June or July
Big Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	2,000	Fry	June or July
Lake Chelan	Cutthroat	Twin LK	100,000	15	March
		Ad-clipped	(80%)		
	Kokanee	Lake Chelan	80,000	80	Mid-May
	Triploid Rainbows	Spokane	1,000	0.4	May - September
	Triploid Rainbows	Spokane	50,000	2.5	August-September
Mill Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	3,000	Fry	June or July

Table 2. 2011 Actual Fish Stocking

Location	Species	Stock	Number	No. Fish/lb	Stocking date
Lake Chelan Tributaries					
First Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	26,899	Fry	Early September
Lake Chelan	Cutthroat	Twin LK	137,224	Fry	Late September
	Cutthroat	Twin LK	51,949	15	April
		Ad-clipped	(80%)		
	Kokanee	Lake Chelan	0	N/A	N/A
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	1,686	0.4	May - September
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	46,829	3.4	August - September

Table 3. 2012 Fish Stocking Plan

Location	Species	Stock	Number	No. Fish/lb	Stocking Date
Lake Chelan Tributaries					
Twenty Five Mile Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	29,091	Fry	June or July
First Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	14,545	Fry	June or July
Grade Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	3,636	Fry	June or July
Safety Harbor Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	2,727	Fry	June or July
Company Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	78,750	Fry	June or July
Blackberry Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	81,900	Fry	June or July
Lake Chelan	Cutthroat	Twin LK	50,000	15	March
		Ad clipped (80%)			
	Kokanee	Lake Chelan	80,000	80	Mid May
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	1,000	0.5	May - September
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	50,000	2.5	August - September
Mill Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	3,000	Fry	June or July

Table 4. 2012 Actual Fish Stocking

Location	Species	Stock	Number	No. Fish/lb	Stocking Date
Lake Chelan Tributaries					
Twenty Five Mile Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	29,000	Fry	August
Twenty Five Mile Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	7,803	10	June
First Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	15,000	Fry	August
Grade Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	3,000	Fry	September
Safety Harbor Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	3,500	Fry	September
Company Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	17,500	Fry	September
Blackberry Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	0	Fry	
Lake Chelan	Cutthroat	Twin LK	72,980	15	April
		Ad clipped (80%)			
	Cutthroat	Twin LK	1,000	Fry	September
	Kokanee	Lake Chelan	27,200	100	Mid May
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	1,898	0.8	October
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	39,339	2.5	August - September

Table 5. 2013 Fish Stocking Plan

Location	Species	Stock	Number	No. Fish/lb	Stocking Date
Lake Chelan Tributaries					
Twenty Five Mile Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	29,000	Fry	June – August
First Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	14,700	Fry	June – August
Grade Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	2,700	Fry	June – August
Safety Harbor Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	3,200	Fry	June – August
Mitchell Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	4,000	Fry	June – August
Fish Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	6,000	Fry	June – August
Gold Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	1,200	Fry	June – August
Prince Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	4,700	Fry	June – August
Company Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	30,000	Fry	June – August
Blackberry Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	30,000	Fry	June – August
Lake Chelan	Cutthroat	Twin LK	15,000	15	March
		Ad-clipped (80%)			
	Kokanee	Lake Chelan	0		
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	1,000	0.5	May - September
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	50,000	2.5	August - September

Table 6. 2013 Actual Fish Stocking

Location	Species	Stock	Number	No. Fish/lb	Stocking Date
Lake Chelan Tributaries					
Twenty Five Mile Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	29,000	Fry	August – September
First Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	19,000	Fry	August – September
Lake Chelan	Cutthroat	Twin LK	2,700	Fry	August – September
Safety Harbor Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	3,200	Fry	August – September
Mitchell Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	4,000	Fry	August – September
Fish Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	6,000	Fry	August – September
Gold Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	1,200	Fry	August – September
Prince Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	4,700	Fry	August – September
Company Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	30,000	Fry	August – September
Stehekin River	Cutthroat	Twin LK	30,000	Fry	August – September
Lake Chelan	Cutthroat	Twin LK	16,953	13 – 9.5	April
		Ad-clipped (80%)			
	Kokanee	Lake Chelan	0		
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	2,338	0.5	May – July
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	69,993	2.5	September - October

Table 7. 2014 Fish Stocking Plan

Location	Species	Stock	Number	No. Fish/lb	Stocking Date
Lake Chelan Tributaries					
Fish Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	6,000	Fry	July – August
Gold Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	1,300	Fry	July – August
Prince Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	4,700	Fry	July – August
Cascade Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	600	Fry	July – August
Four Mile Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	2,100	Fry	July – August
Big Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	700	Fry	July – August
Pyramid Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	2,300	Fry	July – August
Company Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	30,000	Fry	July – August
Blackberry Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	30,000	Fry	July – August
Lake Chelan	Cutthroat	Twin LK	50,000+	2.5	July - August
		Ad-clipped (80%)			
	Kokanee	Lake Chelan	70,000	<100	May
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	50,000	2.5	August - September
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	2,000	0.5	May - September

Table 8. 2014 Actual Fish Stocking

Location	Species	Stock	Number	No. Fish/lb	Stocking Date
Lake Chelan Tributaries					
Fish Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	6,000	426	August
Gold Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	1,300	557	August
Prince Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	4,700	557	August
Cascade Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	600	426	August
Four Mile Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	2,100	426	August
Big Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	700	557	August
Pyramid Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	2,300	557	August
Company Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	30,000	402	August
Blackberry Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	30,000	426	August
Chelan River			2,000	242	October
Lake Chelan	Cutthroat	Twin LK	47,483	3.5	June
		Ad-clipped (80%)			
	Kokanee	Lake Chelan	70,177	85	May
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	728	0.2-0.25	June
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	38,846	~2.5	October - November

A significant note for 2014 of actual fish stocked into Lake Chelan was 47,483 westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) at 3.5 fish per pound (FPP) were stocked into the lake. This was the first time that WCT of approximate catchable size were stocked into the lake for recreational fishing. As outlined previously in this document, WCT have been very difficult to rear to catchable size due to eggs originating from wild stock and being much more difficult to culture (more susceptible to disease, reduced growth rates, avoidance/fright behavior, etc.) than more domesticated stocks, such as rainbow trout. However, WDFW and Chelan PUD coordinated alternative rearing practices and facilities for WCT, and were able to produce WCT to catchable size and stock them into Lake Chelan for the first time in 2014. This program, in addition to

refinements as more is learned regarding culturing wild-origin WCT, will be continued into the future with the goal of producing the entire license stocking production requirement of trout to be WCT and reducing the stocking of triploid rainbow trout, to the greatest extent practicable.

Table 9. 2015 Fish Stocking Plan

Location	Species	Stock	Number	No. Fish/lb	Stocking Date
Lake Chelan Tributaries					
Twenty Five Mile Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	29,000	Fry	July – August
First Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	14,700	Fry	July – August
Mitchell Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	4,000	Fry	July – August
Grade Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	2,700	Fry	July – August
Safety Harbor Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	3,200	Fry	July – August
Cascade Creek Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	600	Fry	July – August
Four Mile Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	2,100	Fry	July – August
Big Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	700	Fry	July – August
Pyramid Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	2,300	Fry	July – August
Company Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	30,000	Fry	July – August
Blackberry Creek	Cutthroat	Twin LK	30,000	Fry	July – August
Lake Chelan	Cutthroat	Twin LK	100,000	3.0	July–August
		Ad-Clipped (80%)			
Kokanee	Lake Chelan	LK Chelan	80,000	<100	May
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	TBD	2.5	August – September
	Triploid Rainbow	Spokane	1,000	0.5	May – September

Fish stocking is a component of the Lake Chelan Fishery Forum Annual Work Plan (AWP). The AWP is requirement contained in section 4.2.2 **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Program** of the LCFP and is prepared by the USDA Forest Service, National Park Service (NPS) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The AWP is submitted to Chelan PUD for approval and planning for expenditure of annual funding for implementing the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) program as described in section 4.2.2. The LCFP is involved with the preparation of each AWP and, therefore, all aspects of the Lake Chelan fish stocking program.

The LCFP convenes a forum meeting each the fall, generally in October or November, to begin development of the next year's AWP. Forum discussions during this meeting involve review of M&E results, projects to be implemented, based on M&E results, during the next year, budgets needed to conduct the work, and data from M&E results informing decisions regarding the fish stocking program. This annual Forum meeting serves as the opportunity for annual review and revision of the fish stocking plan and management objectives for all Forum members. The LCFP held a meeting of the Forum on November 20, 2014 to begin developing the AWP and, concurrently, the fish stocking plan for 2015 presented here.