August 30, 2007

Kris Pomianek
Recreation Resources Administrator
PUD of Chelan County
PO Box 1231
Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231

Re: Emergency Response and Rescue within the Chelan Gorge

To whom it may concern:

In review of the whitewater boating component for the new license to operate Lake Chelan Dam, Chelan County Fire District 7 Board of Commissioners and Fire Chief oppose whitewater rafting and any other type of recreational activity in the Chelan Gorge.

The dangers and risks of a rescue performed in the Chelan Gorge by Fire District personnel are elevated hazards in which our volunteers are not trained in whitewater rafting rescues.

In the event an incident takes place in the Chelan Gorge Fire District volunteer personnel will respond and perform emergency services within their level of expertise and training.

It is with great concern to the Commissioners, Fire Chief and Volunteers that if the American Whitewater or any such agency is granted the access of recreational use to the Chelan Gorge that the safety of the boater, public and emergency personnel would be jeopardized due to the dangerous terrain and rapid water flow in the Chelan Gorge. It is not a place for the public to recreate safely.

Please find this letter in opposition of whitewater rafting and any other recreational activities in the Chelan Gorge.

Respectfully,

Peter V. Vaglio, Chairman

John C. Gordon, Commissioner

Dan D. Wright, Commissioner

Dennis Ashmore, Fire Chief
September 25, 2007

Kris Pomianek
Recreation Resources Administrator
Chelan County PUD
PO Box 1231
Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231

Re: Law Enforcement Emergency Response in the Chelan Gorge

Dear Kris,

I have reviewed the whitewater boating information included in the new license to operate Lake Chelan Dam. I am opposed to whitewater rafting, and in fact, any type of recreational activity in the Chelan Gorge.

Chelan County Sheriff's Office personnel are not equipped, nor do they have the necessary training to respond to such a high risk area in attempted rescue or recovery situations. I would not choose to submit my rescue technicians to such unnecessary risk, and it is my opinion no rescue or recovery could safely be accomplished in the Chelan Gorge.

The Chelan County Sheriff's Office will always respond in an emergency situation, however we do not have the capacity or expertise necessary to provide rescue or recovery efforts in the Chelan Gorge. Therefore, I adamantly oppose all recreational activities in this area.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Harum, Sheriff

MTH/jb