

Rocky Reach Meeting Minutes

To: Distribution List
From: Michelle Smith
Date: December 6, 1999
Subject: Socioeconomic/Land Management and Recreation Working Group Meeting
Attendees: Refer to Sign-Up Sheet
Location: Service Building Conference Room, Wenatchee, WA

SOCIOECONOMICS & LAND MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE

Review and discuss draft land management and socioeconomic study plans.

Land Management Study Plan

Michelle Smith (PUD) reviewed the basic outline of the study plan and explained that all of the study plans for relicensing follow a similar format. In review of the background information, Doug Allan commented that documentation of the town of Entiat should actually be the city of Entiat. The change will be made.

Michelle mentioned that the goal of the Land Management Study is to inventory and gather information on land management and shoreline comprehensive plans so when enhancement proposals are made they will be in accordance with all of the plans. Bob Whitehall, city of Entiat stated he would get Michelle a copy of the city of Entiat's Community Action Plan (1999). Karen Whitehall (USFS) suggested adding the State Growth Management Act (GMA) to both county and local as they apply to those areas because although it is a State Act, the actual plans are by county and city.

ACTION ® Michelle will add Entiat Community Action Plan to "Local Plans".

ACTION ® Michelle will add GMA to "Local Plans" and "County Plans".

An additional recommendation was made by Doug Allan for more detailed description of the parks under "section 1.9". Michelle stated that this would be a function of the Recreation Resources Inventory and for Land Management she tried to stay with general descriptions.

ACTION ® Michelle to add an * under "Section 1.9, Current Recreation Development" to note "see Recreation Use Assessment or Recreation Resources Inventory Study Plans for more detailed park descriptions. It is a goal of the Recreation Resources Inventory to further describe each park site".

From a previous meeting, the DOE mentioned the PUD doing work on water withdraws, and Bob Whitehall indicated that he could see that happening on PUD property, but as far as water withdraws did not feel the PUD should be responsible. Michelle indicated she would check on this issue and get back to the working group.

The working group read through the "Needs Statement" and the "Study Goal". Michelle stated that the anticipated completion date of the study is August 1, 2000. She added that the consultant would be hired in February to enable them to begin fieldwork in March. The consultant will summarize all of the plans into a matrix and the working

group members will determine if the existing plans and programs are working efficiently and make sure there aren't any conflicts or gaps associated with them.

Socioeconomic Study Plan

Michelle first read through the "Needs Statement" and stated that the historical perspectives of the city of Entiat are not mentioned in this section, but are addressed under the Task List. Jeff Davis, Entiat School District indicated that in regards to Task 4 (b) it is important to also examine the allocation of the privilege tax as it relates to the School District as well as the city of Entiat.

ACTION ® Michelle will change Task 4(b) to reference Entiat School District as well as the city of Entiat.

The anticipated completion date of the Socioeconomic Study is also August 1, 2000.

Socioeconomic Consultant Interviews

Michelle distributed consultant backgrounds and qualifications of four potential consultants. One consultant interview will be performed today.

Michelle stated that it is important for the working group to talk to each of the potential consultants so that everyone feels comfortable with the candidates and could ask questions related to how issues would be addressed. Bob, city of Entiat mentioned that on the City's perspective looking at the historical impacts is important. Michelle responded by saying that essentially we are still searching for the best strategy of evaluating historical impacts. Ultimately, developing the methodologies will be a task of a professional economic consultant. What we don't want to have happen is to spend a great deal of time and money trying to research historical information and then find out that its nice to know but doesn't give us any answers on how to proceed. That time and money could have been better spent looking at future opportunities.

The working group members then spent time brainstorming questions to ask consultant applicants, which was followed by an interview with a potential consultant.

Recreation

Overview

Michelle stated that as part of the Rocky Reach Relicensing effort, as it pertains to recreation, the PUD is also doing a Recreation Use Assessment which will help give an idea of current usage and visitor perceptions of the parks. In addition, as an addendum to the Recreation Use Assessment, a survey will be developed to determine the interrelationship of recreational activities occurring at Entiat Park (specifically boat launch activity) and US Forest Service camp sites in the upper Entiat Valley. The PUD will be conducting the survey at the Entiat boat launch during peak and off peak seasons of 2000. In combination, the Forest Service will be conducting a survey at their campsites. Michelle noted that the Forest Service survey will be conducted by the Forest Service and is not part of the PUD relicensing studies.

Recreation Inventory Study Plan

The Recreation Inventory will document all recreational areas within the reservoir, including private sites such as the Wenatchee Boating Club. Michelle informed working group members that were not present at the earlier session, that all study plans follow the same general format.

Doug Allan, Trout Unlimited again suggested that more descriptive details should be included in the parks descriptions under "section 1.9", such as related park use fees and park season and hours. Michelle stated that this was essentially what the inventory would be doing, therefore a specific item would be added to the Recreation Inventory task list. Bill Fraser, Washington State Parks mentioned he would like reference of the proposed Lincoln Rock Trail in the inventory. Michelle responded by saying that at a past working group meeting it was discussed and decided that because the trail is proposed, and not currently existing that it would not be appropriate in the current inventory. However, any proposed or existing recreation or trails plans should be identified and will be addressed as we get closer to the identification of PME measures and the development of a Rocky Reach recreation plan.

The working group reviewed the “Needs Statement” and “Study Goal”. The Study Goal states that the Recreation Resources Inventory will be in addition to the Recreation Use Assessment but will specifically inventory developed and undeveloped sites on private and public lands, and in addition will help assess if there is adequate access to the reservoir from adjacent lands. Michelle noted that information from the Fisheries Aquatic Habitat Study would address the milfoil issue that was originally listed in the Recreation Study Plan. The next section discussed was “Study Area”. The group discussed the definitions of “Lower Douglas PUD reservoir” and “adjacent lands” which were added from comments given at the last working group meeting in November. Because no one could recall a definition, Michelle stated she would get a more clear definition of these areas and review them with the working group at the next meeting. Jim Fisher (BLM) wondered if mitigation lands are included. Michelle stated that mitigation lands will be inventoried, and that the wildlife group will be addressing issues related to those lands.

The final section of the plan the working group reviewed was the Task List. Michelle added that a task would be included per Doug Allen’s comments to include more detailed descriptions of all park sites. Bill (WS Parks) recommended adding the identification of potential future facilities because the inventory should include existing lands that could be a future site. Michelle will add a bullet item to identify lands that may be suitable for future recreational development. Karen (USFS) suggested an additional task is to review work by the Wildlife Working Group to identify use on wildlife mitigation lands. Michelle made the change by adding a placeholder. The final change the group made was removing “recommendations” from Task 7, because the purpose of the study is to only inventory the study area.

Recreation Use Assessment Study Plan Addendum (Entiat Park Survey)

The goal of the survey is to determine the interrelationship of recreational activities occurring at the Entiat Park boat launch and USFS campsites in the Upper Entiat Valley. The survey will be done at the Entiat Park boat launch. Debby Howe, Howe Consulting will develop a survey form and determine how the survey will be done. The PUD will also be working with the City of Entiat on the best way to perform the survey. Bob (City of Entiat) indicated that if the park moved the gatehouse they could catch everyone coming into the park and feels that is the way to do it. The USFS will also be conducting a survey at their campsites but although the PUD will be providing the survey boxes, it is a separate survey. Michelle added that the survey questions listed in the addendum were pulled from the assessment for whole reservoir as examples. Once Debby Howe develops the survey, the working group will have an opportunity to review and comment on the questions.

The only change made to the addendum was the correction of the peak season and off-season dates. Changes made to the addendum were made and saved as “Addendum 2”.

NEXT MEETINGS

- Socioeconomic/Land Management – (possible dates Jan 19, 20, 21, 25, 28)
- Recreation – (possible dates Jan 19, 20, 21, 25, 28)
- NEPA Scoping Document Public Meeting, December 15, 1999, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- NEPA Scoping Document Public Meeting, December 16, 1999, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Land Management:

- Michelle to add an * under “Section 1.9, Current Recreation Development” to note “see Recreation Use Assessment or Recreation Resources Inventory Study Plans for more detailed park descriptions. It is a goal of the Recreation Resources Inventory to further describe each park site”.
- Michelle will check on water withdraws on PUD lands per Bob Whitehall’s comments (see Land Mgmt Minutes).
- Michelle will add Entiat Community Action Plan to “Local Plans”.
- Michelle will add GMA to “Local Plans” and “County Plans”.
- Michelle will add reference to BLM land management plan as Resource Management Plan (1987)

Socioeconomics:

- Michelle will change Task 4b in the Socioeconomic study plan to reference Entiat School District as well as the city of Entiat.
- Michelle will provide a more clear definition of areas added to the Socioeconomic study plan, specifically “Lower Douglas PUD reservoir” and areas immediate adjacent.
- Michelle will change any reference of “town of Entiat” to “city of Entiat” in all study reports.

Recreation:

- Michelle will add a task item in the Recreation Inventory to provide detailed park descriptions.
- Michelle will add a task item in the Recreation Inventory to identify lands that may be suitable for future recreational development.
- Michelle will add a task item in the Recreation Inventory to review work being completed by the Wildlife working group on mitigation lands.
- Michelle will remove the word “recommendations” from Task 7 in the Recreation Inventory.
- Michelle will change the field work dates for the Entiat Survey to off peak – April 15 to May 25, and peak – May 26 to Sept 4, 2000.

Other:

- Michelle will send out e-mail to working group members to determine next meeting date.
- Michelle will line up additional consultant interviews for the next meeting.

Reference materials are posted on the web site, www.chelanpud.org/relicense.

Please contact Rosana Sokolowski, (888)663-8121, Ext. 4290, if hard copies are needed.

- Sign-up Sheet
- Distribution List
- Land Management Study Plan
- Socioeconomic Study Plan
- Recreation Inventory Study Plan
- Addendum (Entiat Park Survey)