

## ROCKY REACH HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

### SOCIAL SCIENCES WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Rocky Reach Full Team Meeting

September 28, 2000

#### Working Group Status

- The next working group meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2000. Location to be determined.
- Socioeconomic consultants Reed Hansen and Michael McHugh will attend 11/9 meeting to answer questions related to the draft socioeconomic study.
- Recreation consultant Debby Howe will also attend 11/9 meeting to present results of the draft recreation use assessment.

#### Socioeconomics

**Study Completion Schedule:** First Draft distributed to working group on September 18, 2000. Comments are due by October 20, 2000 and should be sent to Chelan PUD, attention Michelle Smith.

**Study Goal:** Identify, describe and document factors that influence regional and local economics, including healthcare, agriculture, schools and other public entities, industry and tourism. Identify future growth opportunities and estimate the impact of Project operations on these resources. The Rocky Reach socioeconomics study assessed impacts of current and potential future project operations including fish mitigation and relicensing costs. In addition, a section (appendix A) of the report focused on the city of Entiat and economic changes that occurred from the city's relocation when the dam was built.

#### Recreation Use Assessment

**Study Completion Schedule:** First Draft due September 29, 2000. Will be mailed to working group members.

**Study Goal:** Define existing recreational use in the Rocky Reach Project area including number of visits, recreational activity types, high use locations and temporal trends. And, evaluate recreation demand in the area to determine whether demand is accommodated by existing facilities.

Seven public recreation sites (parks) were studied. In addition, boat runs were conducted to document watercraft use, fishing and dispersed shoreline use in the Project area.

**Entiat Survey:** An additional survey was developed per a request of the USFS to assess whether there was a relationship of recreation activities occurring between Entiat Park and USFS campsites up the Entiat Valley. USFS believes they are receiving displaced campers as they are turned away at Entiat Park when its full. This survey was conducted simultaneously at Entiat Park and USFS sites. The study will analyze whether relationships exist between Entiat and USFS parks and whether park expansion at project sites is warranted to address the problem.

### **Recreation Resources Inventory**

**Study Completion Schedule:** First Draft due spring 2001

**Study Goal:** Develop an inventory of existing recreational use areas and sites within the project area, including developed and undeveloped sites, public landowners, private lands, mitigation lands, railroad properties, lands owned or managed by federal, state and local agencies, lands owned by NGO's. The study will identify future plans, type of use, accessibility, trail opportunities, estimated operating and maintenance costs and service life.

### **Project Lands Management**

**Study Completion Schedule:** First Draft due November 1, 2001. Will be mailed to working group members.

**Study Goal:** Assess lands management processes for reviewing, evaluating and permitting for development within the project boundary. Review relevant land management plans and guidance documents to ensure consistency with the plans and provide baseline information to support the relicensing process.