

PRELIMINARY PME – RECREATION RESOURCES

RECREATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Proposed action:

Develop and implement a revised recreation plan for Rocky Reach Project lands and facilities that is consistent with study results and does not conflict with federal, state and local recreation comprehensive planning efforts. The Recreation Plan will include:

- Ongoing O&M costs (approx. \$1.2 million annually);
- Improvements, replacement and renovation (facilities and estimated costs are being researched and discussed at this time);
- Other Enhancement Projects: managed access system on mitigation lands, trails that connect people to communities, Entiat community waterfront plan, Entiat River Outdoor Learning Center, monitoring and evaluation cycles.

Justification:

According to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulations, Chelan PUD is responsible for recreation resources on project lands, consistent with the needs of the area, to the extent that such development is not inconsistent with the primary purpose of the project. Reasonable expenditures by a licensee for public recreational development pursuant to an approved plan are required as part of the project costs. FERC expects a licensee to ensure public access and recreational use of project lands and waters.

Recreation study results (Recreation Needs Forecast and Analysis) during this relicensing process concluded that existing parks and campground facilities are meeting current demand except on some peak-season holidays and/or weekends in July and August. Lincoln Rock and Beebe Bridge park campgrounds are currently the most heavily utilized.

The report suggests there is potential for additional campsites, especially RV sites and group sites, to accommodate the increasing peak-season demand. However, recreation development opportunities should consider constraints of the resources such as environmental, economic and visitor satisfaction.

In addition, the report cited the potential for development of trails at or near recreation sites to enhance trail-type activities and protect natural environments and habitats from deteriorating from overuse.

Infrastructure repair and replacement was also cited as critical to all existing sites.

Chelan PUD will submit a recreation plan for its project lands that is consistent with these study results.

Alternatives:

NO ACTION: Continue to oversee and/or fund operation and maintenance and capital improvements at existing parks on the Rocky Reach Project reservoir. These include Beebe Bridge, Chelan Falls, Powerhouse, and Rocky Reach parks. In addition, continue operating agreements and/or management of Lincoln Rock, Daroga, Entiat, and Orondo parks.

PREFERRED: Develop and implement a revised recreation plan for the Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project lands and facilities that includes:

- Continued management and/or operation and maintenance of existing PUD-owned parks;
- Plans for improvements, replacement and renovation of recreation facilities (to be defined);

- Managed access system on mitigation lands (to be defined);
- Trails that connect people to communities (to be defined);
- Entiat community waterfront plan;
- Complete development of the Entiat River Outdoor Learning Center;
- Plan for recreation and facility monitoring and evaluation cycles.

OTHER: None known at this time.

PUD Costs:

Capital costs - (being researched at this time)

Annual costs - \$1.2 million for estimated ongoing O&M at Beebe, Chelan Falls, Powerhouse and Rocky Reach parks.

Schedule:

Implementation would occur at issuance of new license or when a final agreement is signed by all parties.