

Rocky Reach Meeting Minutes

To: Distribution List
From: Kris Pomianek
Date: August 27, 2003
Subject: Rocky Reach Social Sciences Issues
Attendees: Refer to Sign-Up Sheet
Location: Hawley Street Conference Room, Wenatchee, WA
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Kris Pomianek, Chelan PUD (PUD), reviewed the agenda items.

Entiat Status

Kris provided an update regarding discussions with the city and the school district. Chelan PUD conducted a socioeconomic study for the Rocky Reach Project including Entiat in 2000. However, Entiat decided to conduct its own analysis. During this time, Chelan PUD and Entiat continued working closely to develop projects. On May 9, 2003, Entiat presented its analysis¹ and in a July 9 letter², requested a response from Chelan PUD. Chelan PUD delivered its response letter³ to Entiat on August 20, 2003.

Chelan PUD's letter explained why it would only provide mitigation for ongoing, Project-related impacts. Chelan PUD, however, intends to continue working on enhancement projects, such as the park revitalization, the disposal of 22 acres of shoreline property for development/planning improvements and the recreation fund. Jim Eychaner, Washington Interagency for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), was pleased to hear that the Entiat park site will still be addressed because this park is a pivotal piece in terms of expansion for recreational opportunities.

Recreation Resources Management Plan, First Draft

The first draft distributed at the meeting is the same information provided at the last meeting of July 23, 2003. The information is now formatted and updated with the tables and figures. The plan gives a detailed explanation of the protection, mitigation and enhancement measures (PMEs) mentioned in the Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA). When the plan is completed, it will contain maps, costs and schedules for each measure. Kris mentioned that the plan still needs to be approved by upper management and, ultimately, the PUD Commissioners.

The group walked through the document and commented on the following sections:

Section 1: Introduction

Top of Page 3: Chris Hall (WDFW) asked that the report, *Sportsmans Access on the Wenatchee River* dated December 15, 2000, be added to the three bulletined references on Page 3. Jim Eychaner (IAC) agreed that since the

¹ http://www.chelanpud.org/rr_relicense/study/reports/4853_1.pdf

² http://www.chelanpud.org/rr_relicense/comm/corresp/4808_1.pdf

³ http://www.chelanpud.org/rr_relicense/comm/corresp/4869_1.pdf

report works under fishery resources as well as recreation and access, it should be cross-referenced. Chris (WDFW) added that parts of the report are referring to in the plan, such as 22 sites on Wenatchee, the hunting easements, and wildlife lands.

Section 2: Existing Conditions

Page 5, Subsection 2.1.1, Existing Private Recreation Facilities: Jim (IAC) suggested adding the number of private boat launches, which amounts to 47 sites and the reference.

Page 6, Subsection 2.1.2, Public Recreation Sites Adjacent to the Project: Alex Martinez, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), asked whether the viewpoint was marked. Kris (PUD) said that she would check on that information.

Page 6, Subsection 2.1.4, Wildlife Recreation Areas: Chris (WDFW) said to delete the word "Recreation" from the title. It should read "Wildlife Areas" only. On top of Page 7, since WDFW no longer manages Gallagher Flats, the wording "is managed by WDFW" should be deleted. On Page 7, second paragraph, Jim (IAC) requested that the expiration of the hunting easements be noted in the plan. Chris Hall (WDFW) said that she would provide this information. On Page 7, third paragraph, first line, Chris (WDFW) said to replace the word "areas" to "easements."

Page 13, Table 1: Alex (USFS) asked if the ADA Facilities column would include more detail. Kris (PUD) said that the inventory will be addressed as a footnote referring to the study that gives details about ADA accessibility. Under the Swimming Beach column for Beebe Bridge Park, Gregg Carrington (PUD) stated to change "liner" to "linear."

Section 3: Recreation Demand, Facility Needs and Resource Capacity

Page 20, first paragraph, fourth line: Regarding the state's Hispanic population, Jim (IAC) contacted Debbie Chavez of the USFS Southwest Research Center. When she sends Jim information regarding recreation preferences of that population, he will pass relevant information along to Kris (PUD).

Page 20, Subsection 3.4, first paragraph, last sentence: Jim (IAC) disagreed with that sentence. He stated that the data does not support that the demands for recreation opportunities will grow correspondingly as populations grow. When IAC did its most recent SCORP, it showed that overall recreation had dropped in a ten-year period. The study found fewer active people than expected. At the same time the state Department of Health and the National Center for Disease Control were finding significantly more overweight people. Jim (IAC) could point to clear declines in camping, fishing and hunting and clear increases in walking, trails, photography, and nature studies.

Page 24, Table 5: Gregg (PUD) pointed out the low number of watercraft observed during the fall season. Regarding the observations for motorboat angling, Jim (BLM) was concerned that the data represented a time period when salmon fishing was closed. Chris (WDFW) suggested inserting a footnote stating something to that effect. Gregg added that that the steelhead season was not open during this study, but a supplemental study was done for a fishing season. Jim (IAC) stated, however, that the supplemental observation (*Recreation Needs Forecast and Analysis*, Appendix B) was not for salmon fishing, but for observations to figure the difference of recreation use between morning, afternoon and evening. Gregg (PUD) commented that Chelan PUD will continue to complete the Form 80s and in Year 15 after the new license is accepted, Chelan PUD will be conducting another recreation study, which will include salmon fishing. Jim (IAC) recommended adding a paragraph in the plan summarizing the changes made by opening salmon fishing in 2002 and 2003. Jim (BLM) concurred. Kris (PUD) will incorporate these comments into plan.

The group continued discussions regarding the time periods for steelhead fishing. Gregg handed out a table showing the migration time of salmon and that the Project shuts down its ladder from November to April 1. Little or no salmon would be coming upstream during the winter. However, Alex (USFS) and Jim Fisher, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recollected that when they were fishing in the tributaries, it began in November/December. Jeff Osborn, PUD biologist, stated that during the winter period fishing would most likely be for whitefish in the tributaries and not steelhead in the reservoir. He added that one reason for the number of boats may be due to duck hunting.

Pages 24-25, Tables 7-9: Alex (USFS) wondered if the figures in column b of Table 7 should be the same for Tables 8 and 9. Jim (IAC) and Gregg (PUD) agreed that if the figures represent annual growth rates, they should remain constant, but if they represent seasonal growth, they should change. Kris will check.

Page 26, Table 10: Alex (USFS) asked whether the proposed expansion of capacity for recreation use will be adequate for dealing with the true peak season of use. Jim (IAC) mentioned that after referring to Figure 7-7, Page 7-40 of the *Recreation Needs Analysis*, which compares average current (1999) and projected (2002) capacity use, and reading Section 7.6 on displaced use that “1999 on-site interview responses at Project recreation sites found that most visitors were displaced from recreation sites outside of the Project area to Project area recreation sites. Visitors displaced from Project area sites were found to generally go to other Project area recreation sites... No survey respondents at USFS Campgrounds in 2000 indicated that they were staying at a USFS campground because a Project area recreation site was too full or too crowded,” that he was satisfied that the proposed expansion is being addressed.

Section 4: Development Plan and Implementation Schedule

Page 34, Subsection 4.1, Development of Recreation Enhancement Options, Item 4. Costs: Jim (IAC) clarified that oftentimes when one sees the term “cost-sharing,” they immediately think that IAC will supplement their project. However, he cautioned people that IAC’s policy states that if an action is required as part of a settlement agreement or a license, it is not eligible for IAC grants. For example, if a utility is required or agrees to build a boat launch, it is 100 percent of the utility’s responsibility; however, after the launch has been built and it is discovered that docks are needed, which is considered above and beyond, then the project would qualify for IAC grants. Jim may hold a half-day workshop to answer questions regarding this matter and will notify the working group once it’s confirmed.

Page 37, Item 5. Disposal of 22 shoreline acres in Entiat: Kris (PUD) mentioned that the cost of the 22 shoreline acres in Entiat valued at \$5 million. Chelan PUD held onto that land when the dam was constructed because of its instability. A recent study determined that the land is stable.

Page 37, Item 6. Interpretive/Nature Trails: Alex (USF) asked if the interpretive proposal included historical references of the area. Kris (PUD) answered that the proposal did include that especially for Entiat.

Page 40, Item 9. Recreation Use Study: The evaluation study is built into the plan as a review for both Chelan PUD and the agencies managing recreation resources for the term of 50 years. In the first paragraph, last sentence, Jim (IAC) recommended replacing the words “cost not to exceed” to “estimated budget of” in order to avoid any question. The group agreed.

Chris (WDFW) questioned why the use study would be conducted only once during the term of the license. Jim (IAC) typically recommended a review of recreation on some formal basis on a schedule that coincides with the Form 80 6-year requirement. Kris (PUD) indicated that the Item 10. Recreation Resources Monitoring and Evaluation Program meets that recommendation; however, the use study does not. Chris (WDFW) suggested using a 12th and 24th year mark. Jim (IAC) agreed that waiting 20 years is too long especially for a 50-year term. It’s too late at that point to do a major change if needed.

Page 41, Table 21: Regarding the estimated costs column, Kris (PUD) explained that the dollar amounts reflect the high-end costs. Gregg (PUD) mentioned that the cost estimates first shown to him provided a cost range. He recommended entering the range because when the projects are reviewed, the methods selected will be cost-effective ones that meet the needs. When the high-end is entered, the expectations are for that amount which may not be the case. Jim (IAC) agreed with the entering the range of costs.

Page 41, Table 21, Items 2 and 3: Jim (IAC) noticed that under the descriptions, there was no mention of boating facilities. Even though the report talks about the need for boating facilities, Jim (IAC) reported that IAC and the state are now researching into grants for boating facilities for both Lincoln Rock and Daroga parks. He stated that IAC is receiving additional funding for boating-type programs.

At a previous meeting, Chris Hall (WDFW) mentioned that the Lincoln Rock hatchery was being expanded, which could obstruct the trail extension. Kris followed up on that information and notified the group that after meeting with PUD fish and wildlife staff, the expansion could accommodate the extension. Jim (IAC) mentioned that the hatchery expansion could be an attraction for public viewing. Kris (PUD) mentioned that because of additional costs involved with security and safety issues, it was unlikely the expansion would include public viewing. However, the

possibility of posting an interpretive sign was discussed. Jim (IAC) acknowledged Kris's comments and suggested that the PUD include that it addressed the issue in the plan.

Miscellaneous

Chris Hall (WDFW) mentioned that the term "Lake Entiat" is being used inconsistently by different people. Gregg added it should not only be consistent in the PDEA, but also in the comprehensive plans.

Gregg (PUD) mentioned that the plan provides peak daily uses, but it should also state the total counts of people visiting the parks as provided in the Form 80s. The numbers are year round. Chris Hall (WDFW) added that by using the total numbers against the peak season information, it would be one way of getting the winter usage numbers that the studies did not obtain. Kris (PUD) mentioned that one reason for not addressing winter usage was because many of the parks are closed. If that was the case, Chris (WDFW) asked if the remaining parks met the demand of boating for hunting and fishing. Jim Eychaner (IAC) brought out how the great number of private launches may be meeting that demand.

Jim (IAC) noted that there's any number of paragraphs that talk about the summary of need for different activities. However, to form a basis for your proposed actions, he suggested referring to some of the key findings from the Needs Analysis report and entering it between Sections 3 and 4. This will show that what you propose is consistent with the needs.

Chris (WDFW) asked if this plan stated whether there would be consideration of wildlife needs as facilities are developed, such as using native plants. Kris (PUD) answered that it did not. Jim (IAC) added that development is usually governed by local organizations, which may not be consistent with these needs, and may need to be discussed at those levels. Kris (PUD) will follow up with Chris regarding details.

Dispersed Recreation

Jim (BLM) mentioned his concern regarding the increased use of dispersed sites and the problems associated with that increase, for example, sanitation. Kris (PUD) stated that the possibility of patrol could be a multi-agency effort since Chelan PUD did not see itself in that role. Jim (IAC) recommended that a section on dispersed sites be included in the plan. What is in the plan now is minimal and not reflective of what's currently happening. Jim added that this is a huge concern for the Priest Rapids, Wanapum, Lewis and Baker rivers. On the Lewis River, PacifiCorp which owns the parks, cleans up those sites. On the Swift reservoir, the utility has tentatively agreed to pay the USFS. Therefore, some solutions may be to 1) assign the clean-up duties to an existing maintenance crew, or 2) make cooperative payments to a county sheriff in terms of law enforcement as opposed as to hiring another person. There may not be enough fishing/hunting activity to warrant a full-time officer. Start with someone who already has a manager presence on the reservoir.

On the Lewis River, Jim (IAC) mentioned that there is study specifically on dispersed users. First, they wanted no management control, no payments, and to be left alone. On the Cowlitz project, Tacoma Light hired its own law enforcement person. They found that about 65 percent of the people using dispersed sites had outstanding warrants or worse. The user clientele changed depending on how they arrive to the sites. If sites are accessed by foot, boat or horse, the people are the typical visitors. However, if sites can be accessed by car, the opposite is true. A theory might be that alcohol is more easily transported by car. Jim (BLM) added that if you restrict site access to walking for the first 50 yards or enforce a \$2/day-use fee, it completely changed the user clientele and cuts down the problem tremendously. Jim (IAC) agreed to discourage motor vehicle access to the dispersed sites. He added that management for dispersed sites need not be expensive. On the Swift reservoir and Lewis River, it amounted to about \$8,000 per year. He recommended that Kris (PUD) talk to Mark Stenburg, the direct planner for the PacifiCorp, who is doing the recreation plan for the Lewis River.

Chris (WDFW) stated that dispersed campsites also affect cultural sites because they are not marked.

Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment, Second Draft

Since no time was left to discuss further comments regarding the PDEA, Kris (PUD) asked if the group could submit any additional comments to her before September 5. Kris will attempt to get the updated PDEA and comprehensive plan to the group as soon as possible.

Other Business

Next Meeting: TBD

Reference Materials: View on the PUD Web site, www.chelanpud.org/rr_relicense/comm/meet2003/082703.htm. Please contact Rosana Sokolowski, (888)663-8121, Extension 4175, if hard copies are required.