
ROCKY REACH RECREATION NEEDS FORECAST AND ANALYSIS STUDY PLAN

First Draft

**ROCKY REACH HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
FERC Project No. 2145**

January 15, 2001



**Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County
Wenatchee, Washington**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS 1

SECTION 1: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 3

SECTION 2: METHODOLOGY 5

SECTION 3: PROPOSED TASKS 7

SECTION 4: TABLE OF CONTENTS 9

SECTION 5: SCHEDULE 11

SECTION 6: REFERENCES 11

SECTION 1: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the recreation needs analysis is to evaluate recreation use and demands and identify recreation needs within the waters and public lands of the Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project boundary.

The needs analysis is intended to identify recreation needs in the project area that recreation resource managers and providers should strive to address over the term of the new license. Recreation resource managers and providers of developed public recreation facilities in the Project area include Chelan County PUD, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Entiat Parks Department, and Port of Douglas County. Washington State Bureau of Land Management and Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Forest Service also manage lands in the project area that are available to the public for fishing, hunting and other recreational purposes.

The needs analysis does not assign specific responsibility for implementing potential actions, nor does it propose that Chelan PUD fund all needs identified in the analysis. The intent of the needs analysis is to provide information for the PUD as well as other recreation resource managers and providers to use in making decisions regarding the management, planning, design and construction of recreation resources in the project area.

SECTION 2: METHODOLOGY

A number of inter-related factors are used to identify recreation needs including occupancy and utilization levels, population growth projections and projected increases in demand by activity type, visitor survey responses, signs of overuse, perceptions of visitor crowding, density of boating use, ROS designations, and published recreation related plans. The needs analysis involves several steps including an evaluation of the existing recreation supply in the study area and recreation demand. Recreation supply is based on an inventory of existing public recreation facilities in the study area. The Recreation Use Assessment Report (Chelan PUD, 2000), provides information regarding current visitor use and activity participation. Growth projections, based on a weighted average of population growth of visitors of the study area, are used to project future recreation use in the study area over a 20-year period from 2000 to 2020. The visitor use data, population projections, as well as demographic trends, local and regional demand information obtained from existing studies and planning documents and visitors opinions are used to project the likely future demand for recreation in the study area.

Needs are analyzed for specific recreation facilities/activity categories in the study area including: camping facilities, picnic day-use facilities, boating facilities, swimming/sunbathing facilities, trails, interpretation facilities, dispersed use and displaced use. The needs analysis is based on the premise that the need equals the difference between current supply and demand (supply - demand = needs). The existing project area demands are compared with the existing facility and reservoir capacity to determine if future demands can be accommodated with existing facilities. Capacity review is based on facility and physical capacity, design standards, as well as social capacity including perceptions of visitor crowding. It is important to acknowledge that capacity assessments involve many variables and there are different ways to analyze the capacity of a given area, given different management or different standards. This assessment takes a comprehensive look at capacity using all the studies and research currently available for the Project area to evaluate the status of recreation sites and the surface-water areas. This information is used to help make decisions regarding current and future recreation facility needs.

This needs analysis addresses publicly owned recreation facilities in the study area as well as dispersed use along publicly owned undeveloped shorelines and watercraft use within the Rocky Reach Reservoir.

SECTION 3: PROPOSED TASKS

- Task 1: Collect Existing Information (including local, state and federal planning documents, programs, design standards, surveys, demographic information, etc.).
- Task 2: Summarize Inventory of Recreation Facilities (from Recreation Resources Inventory Study).
- Task 3: Summarize Existing Project Area Visitor Use (from Recreation Use Assessment Report).
- Task 4: Develop Recreation Growth Projections (projections to year 2020).
- Task 5: Determine Activity Trends/Demands (based on growth projections, existing plans, survey data, and demographic trends).
- Task 6: Analyze Current Facility and Reservoir Capacity (based on review of parking spaces, picnic sites, length of trails, acreage of sites, facility design standards, vehicle/trailer parking space guidelines, and recommended waterbody capacity standards).
- Task 7: Determine Recreation Needs for Facilities (based on facility/activity categories).
- Task 8: Analyze Facility Needs (based on comparison of public demand and design standards).
- Task 9: Determine Ability of Existing Public Facilities in Study Area to Accommodate Needs (summarizes results of demands, needs, and potential analyses).
- Task 10: Prepare First Report. Present data by monitoring season (Peak, Fall and Spring)
- Task 11: Prepare Second Draft Report for Distribution and Public Review, if warranted.
- Task 12: Prepare Final Report.

SECTION 4: TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section No.	Description	Page No.
1	INTRODUCTION	
1.1	BACKGROUND	
1.2	RECREATION OVERVIEW	
1.3	GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	
2	STUDY AREA	
2.1	GENERAL VICINITY DESCRIPTION	
2.2	CLIMATE	
2.3	ROCKY REACH RESERVOIR	
3	METHODOLOGY	
4	RECREATION SUPPLY	
4.1	EXISTING PROJECT AREA PUBLIC WATER-RELATED RECREATION FACILITIES	
4.2	PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES	
4.3	NON-WATER RELATED FACILITIES	
5	RECREATION DEMAND	
5.1	EXISTING PROJECT AREA RECREATION USE	
5.1.1	Recreation Use at Public Recreation Sites	
5.1.2	Watercraft Activity and Dispersed Use	
5.2	ACTIVITY DEMANDS/TRENDS	
5.2.1	Estimated Growth	
5.2.2	Existing Planning Documents and Surveys	
6	RECREATION NEEDS AND POTENTIAL	
6.1	RECREATION FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES	
6.1.1	Camping Facilities	
6.1.2	Boating Facilities/Activities (Motorized and Non-Motorized)	
6.1.3	Non-Boating Day-Use Facilities/Activities	
	- Picnic	
	- Swimming/Sunbathing	
	- Trails	
	- Other	
6.1.4	Interpretation Facilities	
6.1.5	Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance	
6.1.6	Dispersed Use	
6.1.7	Displaced Use	

6.2 ABILITY OF PROJECT AREA TO ACCOMMODATE NEEDS

7 CONCLUSION

8 REFERENCES

SECTION 5: SCHEDULE

Tasks 1-9: January - March 31, 2001
Draft Report: April 13, 2001
Second Draft (if warranted): May 25, 2001
Final Report: June 29, 2001

SECTION 6: REFERENCES

References and relevant planning documents and surveys conducted in project vicinity that provide information regarding recreation demand, goals, and/or management in the project area include:

Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, State of Washington Outdoor Recreation and Habitat Assessment and Policy Plan 1995-2001 (IAC, 1995), Voices of Washington: Public Opinion on Outdoor Recreation and Habitat Issues (IAC, 1995), Washington Outdoors: Assessment and Policy Plan 1990-1995 (IAC, 1990), Washington State Trails Plan Policy and Action Document (IAC, 1991)

An Assessment of Recreation on Public Lands (IAC, 2000)

Emerging Markets for Outdoor Recreation in the United States (USFS et al, 1995)

U.S. Forest Service, Land and Resource Management Plan (USFS, 1990)

Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan (1987)

Chelan-Entiat Comprehensive Plan (1977)

Chelan County Comprehensive Plan (Chelan County, 2000)

Douglas County Comprehensive Plan (1995)

Douglas Countywide Policy Plan

Douglas County Code Title 18 Zoning (1998), Title 14 Development Permit Procedures and Administration (1997), and Title 19 Environment (1993)

Chelan County Shoreline Master Program (1980)

Douglas County Shoreline Master Program (1972)

Greater East Wenatchee Area Comprehensive Plan (1996)

Wenatchee Urban Area Comprehensive Plan (1997)

City of East Wenatchee Comprehensive Plan (1998)

City of Entiat Comprehensive Plan (1997)

City of Entiat Community Action Plan (1999)

Rocky Reach Recreation Use Assessment Report (Chelan PUD, 2000)