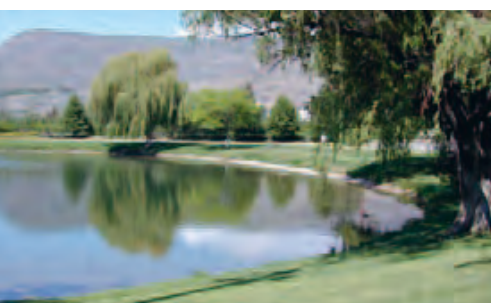


THE 2007 RECREATION ACTION PLAN WAS FILED WITH THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATION COMMISSION (FERC) ON
DECEMBER 26, 2007 AND IS AWAITING APPROVAL.

UPON APPROVAL, PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF
DOUGLAS COUNTY WILL IMPLEMENT THE MEASURES
APPROVED BY FERC.



2007 Recreation Action Plan Update

Supplement to the 1982 Public Use Plan

Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County
Wells Hydroelectric Project
FERC Project No. 2149

2007 Recreation Action Plan Update

A Supplement to 1982 Public Use Plan

**Wells Hydroelectric Project
FERC Project No. 2149**

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

Prepared by:

EDAW
Seattle, Washington

December 2007

Executive Summary

The Public Utility District (PUD) No. 1 of Douglas County (District) owns and operates the Wells Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2149) (Project) on the Columbia River in north central Washington. The original 50-year Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the Project, issued in 1962 and expiring in 2012, included a requirement to prepare a Public Use Plan. In 1982, the Public Use Plan requirement was revised to reflect periodic changes in recreation needs and demand for recreation opportunities over time. The District agreed thereafter to prepare a Recreation Action Plan (RAP) every 5 years. This document presents the 2007 RAP Update (Plan), or fifth and final 5-year RAP Update. The Plan identifies, evaluates, and plans for the implementation of applicable short-term recreation needs in the Project area over the next five years (2007 – 2012).

The District is required under its current FERC license to consult with federal, state, and local community stakeholders in the preparation of the RAP Update. The process for the development of the Plan included communication and involvement between the District and stakeholders. Using criteria, the District prioritized recreation requests for the next 5-year period. The resulting Plan reflects the District's response to short-term recreation needs and enhancement requests by stakeholders. This Plan details the recreation setting and background of the Project area, the process used for defining and prioritizing short-term recreation needs, and the resulting set of proposed actions including site plans and cost estimates. The proposed actions for the Plan have construction costs estimated at \$4,264,000, over a 5-year period, and are detailed in Table ES-1 below. These actions are located within the FERC Project boundary, adjacent to but outside of the boundary, or split the boundary line (both inside and outside).

Table ES-1. 2007 RAP Update actions and cost estimates for 2007-2012.

Requested by	Actions	Location in Relation to FERC Boundary	Estimated Construction Costs
Douglas County PUD	Design, construct, and operate a new boat launch at Carpenter Island below Wells Dam	In (Launch); Out (Access Road)	\$1,800,000
	Paint the restrooms, perform maintenance, and enhance signage/kiosk at the Wells Dam Vista Overlook	In	\$25,000
	Complete and implement an annual program for conducting dock condition assessments and necessary repairs on District-owned docks and floats	In	Inspections & Maintenance - \$75,000 (\$15,000/year)
City of Brewster	Address the limited boat access available in the area by expanding the Columbia Cove boat launch	In	\$900,000

Table ES–1. 2007 RAP Update actions and cost estimates for 2007-2012.

Requested by	Actions	Location in Relation to FERC Boundary	Estimated Construction Costs
City of Brewster, (continued)	Add additional parking for users of Columbia Cove Park	Out	Included in cost above
	Widen existing Columbia Cove boat launch to 2 lanes	In	Included in cost above
City of Bridgeport	Move the Marina Park boat launch ramp to the nearby US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) boat launch and add a handling float on the inside <i>(Requires further approval by the USACOE)</i>	In	\$250,000
	Extend the jetty a short distance at the USACOE boat launch <i>(Requires further study and approval by the USACOE)</i>	In	Included in cost for above
	Address the tree root damage problems in paving at the RV campsite area at Marina Park <i>(Maintenance issue)</i>	Split	\$20,000
	Upgrade the existing lift station for sanitary dumping of RV sewage at Marina Park <i>(Maintenance issue)</i>	In	\$20,000
	Decommission the old boat ramp	In	\$50,000
	Install 3 grey water sumps and install restroom auto flushers at Marina Park	Split	\$4,000
City of Pateros	Conduct annual dock inspections and maintenance at the Winter Boat Launch, Memorial Park, and Methow Boat Launch	In	See Douglas PUD action 3
	Add, improve and maintain water safety signs at the Winter Boat Launch and Methow Boat Launch <i>(Okanogan County Sheriff's office will provide signage at each boat launch and District will install)</i>	In (Winter BL); Out (Methow BL)	\$2,000
	Improve usability of the existing boat ramp at the Winter Boat Launch during all seasons (address ramp steepness, drop-off at the toe of the ramp, and ramp lane length)	In	\$900,000
	Conduct a feasibility study to modify the existing Winter Boat Launch and provide additional parking nearby (Figure 7.4-1c). If feasible, design and construct new facilities at this location.	In (launch); Out (parking)	Included in cost for above
	Conduct ongoing restroom maintenance (painting and seal coating inside and outside) at Memorial Park, Methow Boat Launch, Peninsula Park, and the Riverside Drive Recreation Access	Out	\$32,000

2007 Recreation Action Plan Update

Table ES-1. 2007 RAP Update actions and cost estimates for 2007-2012.

Requested by	Actions	Location in Relation to FERC Boundary	Estimated Construction Costs
City of Pateros (continued)	Install restroom auto flushers for safety and energy efficiency at the Methow Boat Launch, Peninsula Park and the Riverside Drive Recreation Access Site <i>(When an old flusher replacement is needed, will use auto flushers)</i>	Out	\$4,000
	Conduct ongoing gazebo and picnic shelter maintenance (painting and seal coating) at Memorial Park and Peninsula Park	Out	\$16,000
	Inspect asphalt pathways and maintain/repair cracks and tree root damage as needed at Memorial Park, Methow Boat Launch and Peninsula Park	Split	\$6,000
	Evaluate Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking accessibility and define appropriate accessible parking spaces as feasible at Memorial Park; implement actions	Out	\$25,000
	Conduct a study of the swimming area at Peninsula Park including facility improvements (sandy beach, swim float, swimming area delineator, and access), visitor safety and watercraft traffic, and environmental quality (water quality and flushing, sedimentation, aquatic vegetation growth, and sensitive species); Implement the preferred alternative	In	\$100,000
	Reconstruct the playground fall protection area with pads using a concrete base and install a drain at Peninsula Park	Out	\$25,000
Friends of Fort Okanogan	Provide technical and financial assistance for the production of promotional brochures, flyers and/or related products associated with the planned 2011 Fort Okanogan Bicentennial event	Out	\$10,000
			Total \$4,264,000

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- A Recreation Action Plan 2002 Update - Implementation Summary
and Status of Completion
- B 2007 RAP Update Schedule and Tasks
- C Douglas County PUD Correspondence to Stakeholders
- D Consultation Meeting Notes
- E Stakeholder Letters Received by Douglas County PUD
- F Douglas County PUD Recreation Improvements in Relation to the
FERC Project Boundary

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
BOR	US Bureau of Reclamation
District	Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County
DTA	Devine Tarbell and Associates
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FLA	final license application
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IAC	Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (now RCO)
I & E	Interpretation and Education
ILP	Integrated Licensing Process
LCNRA	Lake Chelan National Recreation Area
LRNRA	Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area
MOU	memorandum of understanding
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPS	National Park Service
OFM	Office of Financial Management
PAD	Pre-Application Document
Plan	2007 Recreation Action Plan Update
Project	Wells Hydroelectric Project
PUD	Public Utility District
PWC	personal watercraft
RAP	Recreation Action Plan
RCO	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (formerly IAC)
RM	river mile
RV	recreational vehicle
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
USACOE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFS	United States Forest Service
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
WSPRC	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
WWA	Wells Wildlife Area

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1.0 Introduction

The Public Utility District (PUD) No. 1 of Douglas County (District) owns and operates the Wells Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2149) (Project) on the Columbia River in north central Washington. The original 50-year FERC license for the Project was issued in 1962 and expires in 2012. The District is currently in the process of relicensing the Project with the FERC.

The original FERC license for the Project included a requirement to prepare a Public Use Plan. In 1982, in conjunction with a FERC license amendment, the Public Use Plan requirement was revised to reflect periodic changes in recreation needs and demand for recreation opportunities over time. As part of the 1982 revision, the District agreed to prepare and update a Recreation Action Plan (RAP) Update every 5 years (a summary of the previous RAP's is presented in Table 1.3-1). The previous 5-Year RAP Update was completed in 2002 (a summary of implementation tasks and their status for the 2002 plan is provided in Exhibit A). This 2007 RAP Update (Plan) is the fifth and final RAP Update under the current FERC license. A summary of the Plan's development schedule and tasks is provided in Exhibit B.

This Plan shall be completed and submitted to FERC no later than December 31, 2007. The District is required under its current FERC Project license to consult with the National Park Service (NPS), Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC), and other interested federal, state, and local agencies in the preparation of the Plan. Stakeholders that have been most involved in the development of this Plan include WSPRC, the Cities of Brewster, Bridgeport, and Pateros, the Friends of Fort Okanogan, and the Port of Chelan County. A list of all stakeholders and a consultation record is provided in Exhibit D.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to identify, evaluate, and plan for the implementation of applicable current or short-term recreation needs in the Project area over the next five-year period (2007 – 2012). This Plan includes actions to be addressed by the District.

1.2 FERC License Compliance and Project Relicensing

On July 12, 1962, the Federal Power Commission, now known as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), issued the District a 50-year license to operate the Project. As noted previously, this Plan is the last 5-year RAP Update under the current FERC Project license. As such, it is a "compliance action" under the current license, not a "relicensing action." The current FERC license for the Project expires on May 31, 2012. Throughout the Plan, it is noted if facilities or actions lie within, out of, or split by the FERC Project boundary.

An application for the new FERC license must be filed by the District on or before May 31, 2010. This new FERC license application process is referred to as Project relicensing. The District is pursuing a new operating license through FERC's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) involving extensive stakeholder involvement. The District submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) and a Pre-Application Document (PAD) for relicensing in December 2006 (Douglas PUD, 2006). The District's PAD includes descriptions of Project facilities, operations, license requirements, environmental resources and impacts, Project lands, water resources, fish and aquatic resources, terrestrial and wildlife resources, rare, threatened and endangered species, recreation and land use, cultural resources and socioeconomic resources. It also includes a preliminary list of proposed studies to be conducted during the mandatory two year study period (October 15, 2007 to October 15, 2009). The District filed its Proposed Study Plan (PSP) Document with FERC on May 16, 2007. In this document, 12 study plans are delineated, including plans to address recreation issues. Studies will be finalized with FERC by the middle of October 2007. More information on the relicensing process may be found on the District's website at URL: <http://relicensing.douglaspud.org/default.htm>.

Relicensing is a process that is intended to identify and assess Project-related issues and potential actions. It is important to recognize that this Plan is intended to address current Project-related recreation needs under the current FERC license, not recreation needs during the new 30- to 50-year license term. Some recreation needs that have been proposed by stakeholders are more appropriately addressed during the ongoing relicensing process and future Project license. Some stakeholder requests have included proposed actions or needs that require multiple resource groups to review and approve during the ongoing relicensing process, are actions that cannot be completed during the current 5-year period, are not Project-related recreation needs, and/or are longer-term recreation needs. To help review proposed stakeholder requests, several criteria were used to define actions to be addressed in this Plan to be completed in 2007-2012. Refer to Section 2.0 for further discussion on this topic.

1.3 Wells Project Recreation Planning History and Previous RAP Updates

In 1967, the District prepared a Public Use Plan as a condition of the original FERC license. The original plan was revised in 1982 when the FERC license was amended to raise the elevation of the reservoir two feet. The NPS suggested and FERC agreed that the Public Use Plan should be updated every five years to reflect changes in recreation supply and demand in the Wells Project area.

In 1987, a RAP was developed as a supplement to the 1982 Public Use Plan. Subsequent RAP's were completed in 1992, 1997, and 2002. Table 1.3-1 provides a summary of recreation development, improvements, and enhancements from the original Public Use Plans (1967 and 1982), as well as the previous RAP Updates (1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002). This 2007 RAP Update will guide the recreation planning and management decision-making process from 2007 through 2012, after which a new FERC license is expected.

2007 Recreation Action Plan Update

Table 1.3-1. Summary of the recreation and public use developments, improvements, and enhancements from the original Public Use Plans (1967 and 1982) at Project public use sites.

Site Name	1962 - 1981	1982 - 1986	1987 - 1991	1992 - 1996	1997 - 2001	2002 - 2007	<i>Improvements outside of RAP Updates</i>
	<i>1967 Public Use Plan</i>	<i>1982 Public Use Plan</i>	<i>1987 RAP Update</i>	<i>1992 RAP Update</i>	<i>1997 RAP Update</i>	<i>2002 RAP Update</i>	
Carpenter Island Boat Launch							Added portable toilets; Parking lot improvements
Chicken Creek Boat Launch				Developed			
Chief Joseph State Park (Site Abandoned by State Parks)		Initiated funding	Continued funding	Accelerated annual funding; Site was abandoned by State Parks			Deeded to Washington State Parks in 1960s; Constructed a causeway to Chief Joseph State Park island
Columbia Cove Park & Boat Launch in Brewster	Developed		Added launch ramp, finger dock, moorage dock; Added picnic shelter, restrooms with showers; Improved play equipment and sand beach; Paved parking area and road; Added trees and improved path	Added picnic shelter, tables, trees and basketball court	Provided improvements including installation of walkways, picnic tables and benches, seeding/sodding of disturbed areas; Added pier and floats	Added picnic tables, trash receptacles	Installed fall protection under playground equipment; Repaired playground equipment; Added ADA sidewalks from the parking lot to the picnic shelters; Painted restrooms and picnic shelters inside & out; Replaced gangways from piers to floats; Replaced swim floats & marker buoys

Table 1.3-1. Summary of the recreation and public use developments, improvements, and enhancements from the original Public Use Plans (1967 and 1982) at Project public use sites.

Site Name	1962 - 1981	1982 - 1986	1987 - 1991	1992 - 1996	1997 - 2001	2002 - 2007	<i>Improvements outside of RAP Updates</i>
	<i>1967 Public Use Plan</i>	<i>1982 Public Use Plan</i>	<i>1987 RAP Update</i>	<i>1992 RAP Update</i>	<i>1997 RAP Update</i>	<i>2002 RAP Update</i>	
Fishing Access on Methow River	Deeded Methow River fishing access parcels and easements to Washington Department of Game				Provided improvements including pedestrian pathways, accessible vault toilets, parking and pedestrian use areas delineation with boulders, timber stair construction		
Marina Park & Boat Launch in Bridgeport	Developed		Added Moorage dock and finger dock; Improved sand beach; Earthwork with sod, irrigation for the east end of the park; Added play equipment; Improved restrooms; Paved parking area; Improved road, landscaping and connection trail	Expanded Recreational Vehicle (RV) sites; Replaced sump pump; Added picnic shelter, rip-rap, plantings and gazebo	Provided improvements including concrete curbing, asphalt walks, swimming beach sand, sod/seeding of disturbed areas, erosion protection; Added signage	Remodeled picnic shelter; Repaired trail around lagoon	Installed fall protection under playground equipment; Painted of restrooms and picnic shelters inside & out

2007 Recreation Action Plan Update

Table 1.3-1. Summary of the recreation and public use developments, improvements, and enhancements from the original Public Use Plans (1967 and 1982) at Project public use sites.

Site Name	1962 - 1981	1982 - 1986	1987 - 1991	1992 - 1996	1997 - 2001	2002 - 2007	<i>Improvements outside of RAP Updates</i>
	<i>1967 Public Use Plan</i>	<i>1982 Public Use Plan</i>	<i>1987 RAP Update</i>	<i>1992 RAP Update</i>	<i>1997 RAP Update</i>	<i>2002 RAP Update</i>	
Memorial Park & Boat Launch in Pateros	Developed		Added restrooms with showers, picnic shelter with kitchen; Repaired fishing dock; Reroof picnic shelters	Provided addition of asphalt walkway; Improved Hydro launch ramp, ski docks and connections to Methow Boat Launch; Added lights and landscaping	Provided improvements including seal and painting of the existing bathrooms	Added ADA accessible sidewalks; Added playground equipment; Added picnic tables, benches and trash containers	Provided improvements to the shoreline protection; Resurfaced docks; Slope stabilization along trail under US Highway 97; Replaced light bollards along trail under US Highway 97
Methow Boat Launch	Developed		Removed and replaced launch ramp; Added finger dock and small restroom and fish cleaning station				
Methow Cartop Launch (off SR 153) near Pateros							Provided grading and graveling of the parking area; Added vault toilets (2)
Monse Boat Launch	Developed			Expanded parking; Installed concrete launch			Added vault toilet
Okanogan River Access Site				Added parking			Added new access road; Resurfaced parking lot; Added vehicle barriers; Added vault toilet

Table 1.3-1. Summary of the recreation and public use developments, improvements, and enhancements from the original Public Use Plans (1967 and 1982) at Project public use sites.

Site Name	1962 - 1981	1982 - 1986	1987 - 1991	1992 - 1996	1997 - 2001	2002 - 2007	<i>Improvements outside of RAP Updates</i>
	<i>1967 Public Use Plan</i>	<i>1982 Public Use Plan</i>	<i>1987 RAP Update</i>	<i>1992 RAP Update</i>	<i>1997 RAP Update</i>	<i>2002 RAP Update</i>	
Peninsula Park in Pateros	Developed		Added small restroom; Added sand to beach; Improved shrubs		Provided improvements including picnic shelter, play structure and fall protection, asphalt walkways, benches and picnic table and lawn/grass restoration of disturbed areas	Added benches, picnic tables	
Starr Boat Launch	Developed		Upgraded existing launch; Improved parking			Added turn lanes	Added vault toilet and improved shoreline vegetation
Riverside Drive Recreation Access in Pateros			Asphalt paving and curbs	Painted restrooms; Resurfaced tennis courts		Additional grass and irrigation	Repainted surface for better judging visibility; Replaced practice boards; Painted practice boards and storage shed
Washburn Island				Added parking and boat launch			Added vault toilet
Waterfront Trail in Brewster				Improved trail; Improved landscaping; Added benches, stairs, and erosion protection	Provided enhancements including selective thinning and pruning of trees and undergrowth	Added weed barriers and landscaping; Repaired lighting	Provided improvements to the shoreline protection; Removal of elm trees to restore waterfront views

2007 Recreation Action Plan Update

Table 1.3-1. Summary of the recreation and public use developments, improvements, and enhancements from the original Public Use Plans (1967 and 1982) at Project public use sites.

Site Name	1962 - 1981	1982 - 1986	1987 - 1991	1992 - 1996	1997 - 2001	2002 - 2007	<i>Improvements outside of RAP Updates</i>
	<i>1967 Public Use Plan</i>	<i>1982 Public Use Plan</i>	<i>1987 RAP Update</i>	<i>1992 RAP Update</i>	<i>1997 RAP Update</i>	<i>2002 RAP Update</i>	
Wells Dam Vista Overlook	Constructed the Visitors Center and Overlook at Wells Dam			Added interpretive display, restrooms, picnic shelter and tables			Installed landscape walls and beautified the entrance; Installed fall protection under turbine runner
Wildlife Recreation Areas							Deeded 5,758 acres of land to Washington Department of Game for use as Wildlife Recreation Areas in 1960s
Winter Boat Launch in Pateros			Constructed launch ramp and added finger dock	Added stairs/bulkhead for launching hydroplanes			

Source: Douglas County PUD staff (2007); RAP Update (2002).

2.0 Approach

The District has previously prepared four 5-year supplements or RAP Updates to the 1982 Public Use Plan covering the period between 1987 and 2007. In these prior RAP Updates, stakeholder input was sought on recreation needs in the Project area to be considered by the District over the next 5-year period. Stakeholder needs were reviewed by the District for Project nexus and other criteria such as demonstrated current need, resource protection, and consistency with existing agreements, among others. Most of these needs related to major maintenance of existing recreation facilities in the cities of Pateros, Brewster and Bridgeport. Stakeholder meetings were held to receive input and discuss proposed needs or actions to move forward. Two draft RAP Updates were circulated for review and comment by stakeholders. A final RAP Update was approved by District Commissioners and then by FERC prior to implementation.

This Plan is the last 5-year RAP Update or supplement to the 1982 Public Use Plan under the current FERC Project license. Unique to this Plan, as previously discussed, is the ongoing FERC relicensing proceeding. Because of this, it is important to differentiate between the two processes and to assess whether actions proposed by stakeholders should be addressed during the ongoing relicensing process or during the RAP Update timeframe. The approach used in development of this Plan is described below.

2.1 2007 RAP Update Approach and Tasks

The approach used in the current Plan involved a series of tasks and stakeholder meetings to complete a plan in December 2007. Exhibit B presents six tasks and their schedule, as well as key stakeholder meetings and deliverables.

These six tasks include:

1. Assess Project-related recreation trends and needs at the local, regional and state levels.
2. Hold a kickoff meeting in January 2007 and periodic follow-up meetings and site visits with stakeholders in February through April 2007.
3. Solicit and develop potential needs or actions from stakeholders for initial District review and consideration.
4. Assess and balance identified recreation needs or actions from stakeholders with Project resources, policies and agreements. Apply criteria to assess if these actions should move forward for consideration by the District during the current RAP Update period or are more appropriately considered during the parallel Project relicensing process. Prioritize actions to move forward under the RAP Update.
5. Develop preliminary site plans and cost estimates for proposed needs or actions to be addressed under the RAP Update.
6. Develop preliminary draft, revised draft, and final RAP Update documents for review and comment, with District Commissioner approval in December 2007, followed by FERC approval prior to implementation.

2.2 Stakeholder Consultation

Task 2 of this approach included a number of stakeholder meetings (Exhibit B). The District held a kickoff meeting at District offices in January 2007 (Exhibit C, invitee list). A summary of meeting notes and action items from this and other stakeholder meetings are presented in Exhibit D. At this meeting, the District outlined the proposed tasks, meetings, and RAP Update versions that would be available for stakeholder review and comment. Follow-up stakeholder meetings were also held in February through April 2007 to solicit specific comments on potential needs or actions and to conduct site visits of Pateros, Brewster, and Bridgeport. All stakeholder groups, including federal, state, and local agencies, were invited to participate in additional meetings, but some groups declined. The following stakeholders requested additional individual meetings (5) and/or site visits (3):

- City of Pateros
- City of Brewster
- City of Bridgeport
- Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC)
- Port of Chelan County
- Friends of Fort Okanogan
- Okanogan Historical Society/Fort Okanogan Partnership

Following these meetings, written comments from stakeholders were solicited by the District for receipt by approximately April 30, 2007. Correspondence from the District to stakeholders is presented in Exhibit C and comment letters received by the District from stakeholders are presented in Exhibit E.

Once all stakeholder comment letters were received, the District held a meeting in June 2007 to present a list of all recreation needs or actions that had been defined to date. Clarifications on actions were sought at this time.

The preliminary draft RAP Update was distributed to stakeholder participants (Exhibit C) in August 2007. The District held three meetings in September 2007 with interested stakeholders in order to elicit comments and responses to the preliminary draft RAP Update. These comments and concerns were addressed in the Revised Draft, which was distributed to participants in October 2007.

Following distribution of the Revised Draft RAP Update, the District again solicited stakeholder review and comment and held a meeting in Pateros on November 21, 2007. Following this meeting, a final RAP Update was prepared.

2.3 Criteria and Priorities

As part of Task 4 of the RAP Update, the District compiled each stakeholder need or action that was received by the District and applied a series of eight criterion to assess whether a proposed need or action should be considered during the RAP Update process, during the

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parallel Project relicensing process, or whether the identified stakeholder need or action has no obvious Project nexus at this time. Definitions of criteria used in this process are presented in Table 2.3-1 below.

Table 2.3-1. Criteria for ranking 2007 RAP Update needs or actions.

1	Needed to address existing observed impacts of Project operations/facilities on the recreation resource or facility.
2	Needed to provide adequate public access to existing Project lands and water.
3	Needed to support existing water-based activities.
4	Action is in conformance with the District's Land Use Policy. <i>The Land Use Policy (1993) identifies 2 related goals: (1) does not interfere with the preservation of natural ecosystems and (2) sustains the existing natural systems; also preserves historic and culturally significant sites.</i>
5	Action is of key importance to local officials, governments, public agencies, or the District.
6	Action is in conformance with relevant and current agreements between the District and resource agencies. <i>Relevant and past agreements include: (1) 1987 Maintenance Agreements with each City, (2) 2004 Wells Project Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for anadromous salmon and steelhead, and (3) 1974 agreement between the District and WA Dept. of Game for wildlife mitigation (now WDFW).</i>
7	Action is in conformance with the current FERC License Order approving all four past RAP Updates.
8	Action should more appropriately be considered during on-going Project relicensing that will address potential recreation facility expansion and future capacity needs over the next 30-50 years. Requires balancing and coordinating among multiple resource and stakeholder interests; may involve modifications of Project lands and waters and related FERC boundary adjustments; and where Project nexus must first be documented.

In addition, a priority ranking was developed defining whether each recreation need or action being considered should be ranked as either High, Medium or Low priority during the current 5-year RAP Update period. Definitions of priorities are presented in Table 2.3-2.

Table 2.3-2. Priority levels for 2007 RAP Update actions.

High	Action is needed to provide continuing safe, efficient, and adequate access to the Project shoreline and water area. These may include actions addressing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, safe public use of facilities, adequate year-round access to the Project reservoir, and resource protection. These may also include actions to complete all FERC-approved actions in the previous 2002 RAP Update (as possible).
Medium	Action is needed to enhance the public's use of Project lands and water through ongoing major maintenance of existing Project-related recreation facilities.
Low	Action is needed to enhance the public's use of Project lands and water through routine minor maintenance of existing Project-related recreation facilities. Also, the action will likely be considered during the Project relicensing process.

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3.0 Regional Setting and the Wells Project Vicinity

Washington offers a diverse setting of unique environments and recreational experiences for visitors and residents alike. Many of the most popular recreation areas in the state are located along rivers and on lakes and reservoirs. The Project area is located in north central Washington along the Columbia River, one of the largest rivers in the country. The setting of the mid-Columbia River region and Wells Project vicinity are discussed below.

3.1 Mid-Columbia River Setting

The Columbia River and its tributaries is the backbone of this region and include 11 hydroelectric projects along the main stem of the river operated by Douglas, Chelan, and Grant County PUDs, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), and US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) (Figure 3.1-1). The land includes rolling hills, basalt plateaus, and valleys punctuated by the river corridors. The climate is dry to semi-arid, averaging approximately 10 inches of precipitation a year. Temperatures range from the over 100° Fahrenheit (F) in the summer to around 0° F in the winter. Natural vegetation in the region includes primarily shrub-steppe habitat (sage/bitter brush) with cottonwood and willow typically occurring in riparian drainage corridors. Softwood forest habitat is found in the higher elevations.

The economy of the mid-Columbia River region encompasses Douglas, Okanogan, Chelan, and Grant counties and is serviced by major cross-state highways including Interstate 90 and several major State highways. Much of the local economy is agricultural-based including production of apples, cherries, grapes, other fruit, potatoes, wheat, and hay. The agricultural community is also supported in the region by hydropower production, light industry, retail, residential development, timber, mining, and recreational tourism.

The region has long been a draw for recreational tourism due to several factors including: (1) proximity to the Puget Sound area to the west via cross-state highways, (2) many water bodies and rivers offering water-based recreation opportunities, (3) scenic mountain and river gorge environments, and (4) a warm, dry, and sunny climate. In the last few years, new second-home and/or retirement residential development has been occurring at an increased pace along the shorelines of the Columbia River and its tributaries in all four counties.

The north central region of the state is sparsely populated. According to the 2000 census, the four-county region had a population of approximately 215,000 people, compared to the State total of approximately 5.9 million people.

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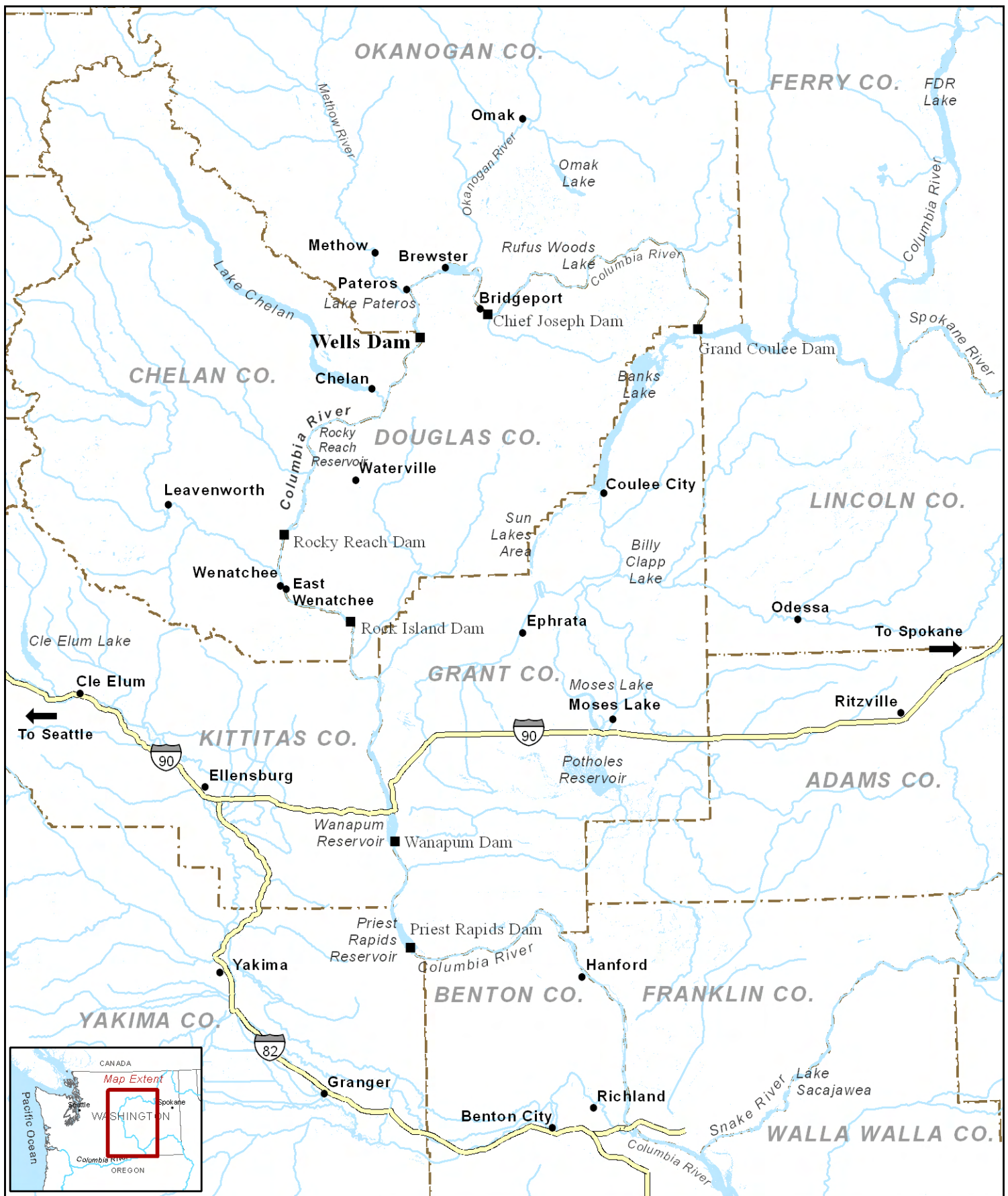


Figure 3.1-1. Regional setting

- Selected Cities & Towns
- Selected Dam Locations
- Yellow line Interstate Highways
- Dashed brown line County Boundaries
- Blue area Open Water
- Blue line Rivers & Streams

Disclaimer: This information is not absolute in terms of its accuracy, regarding location, quantity, or quality. It should only be used as a source of generalized information and should not be considered a valid substitute for site-specific information where such information is required by federal, state, and local government laws and ordinances.



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Along the Columbia River, Chief Joseph Dam operated by USACOE lies upstream from the Wells Project near Bridgeport. Rufus Woods Lake formed by Chief Joseph Dam is approximately 50 river miles long and has limited development due to steep topography and few population centers. WSPRC operates a state park facility (Bridgeport State Park) near Chief Joseph Dam. Grand Coulee Dam, a national tourist attraction, is located to the east at the upstream end of Rufus Woods Lake.

Below the Wells Project, Chelan County PUD operates the Rocky Reach and Rock Island Projects extending for approximately 64 river miles. This river reach is characterized by adjacent highway routes, private land, industrial development, agricultural lands, and highly developed recreation facilities along the river. The cities of Wenatchee and East Wenatchee here are major communities in the region with a population of over 50,000 people. Many of the river-oriented recreation facilities in the region are located here and are operated by the Port of Douglas County, WSPRC, and Chelan County PUD. Further downstream, also within the Mid-Columbia River region, are the Priest Rapids and Wanapum reservoirs formed by the Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams, respectively. These dams and reservoirs are managed by Grant County PUD. Finally, Lake Chelan is located west of the Columbia River and south of Wells Dam and is a regional and national destination. Recreation facilities here are operated by the National Park Service (NPS), Chelan County PUD, WSPRC, and private resort operators. Regional recreation resources, including the facilities within the Mid-Columbia region, are discussed in detail in Chapter 4.

3.2 Wells Project Vicinity

Wells Dam is located at river mile (RM) 516 on the Columbia River and forms Lake Pateros (Wells Reservoir) (Figure 3.2-1). The reservoir is approximately 30 miles in length and also extends approximately 1.5 miles up the Methow River and 15.5 miles up the Okanogan River. The Columbia River and Lake Pateros (Wells Reservoir) in this area forms the southern boundary of the Colville Indian Reservation and the boundaries between Douglas, Okanogan, and Chelan counties. Three cities are located in the Project area including Pateros (approx. pop. 650), Brewster (approx. pop. 2,200), and Bridgeport (approx. pop. 2,100) (2000 Census).

Much of the shoreline is owned in fee by the District and adjacent lands are primarily in private ownership and in agricultural production. With some exceptions, most of the Project's shoreline is fairly steep with benches approximately 20-40 feet above the reservoir. However, accessible shorelines are found along the Okanogan and Methow rivers, Washburn Island, most of the Pateros shoreline, Columbia Cove at Brewster, and Marina Park at Bridgeport. US 97 closely parallels the reservoir for 20 miles, but the intervening rail road corridor restricts vehicular and pedestrian access along much of the western shoreline. Much of the eastern and southern shoreline is inaccessible except by boat or via private lands.

Recreation in the Project area is primarily day use including fishing (particularly during fish runs and fishing derbies), boating, water skiing, personal watercraft use, picnicking, swimming, walking/hiking, wildlife observation, and hunting in the fall. There is also some RV and tent camping. Recreation providers in the Project area include the District,

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), WSPRC, and the cities of Pateros, Brewster, and Bridgeport, with recreation facilities concentrated in the three cities and at nearby Alta Lake.

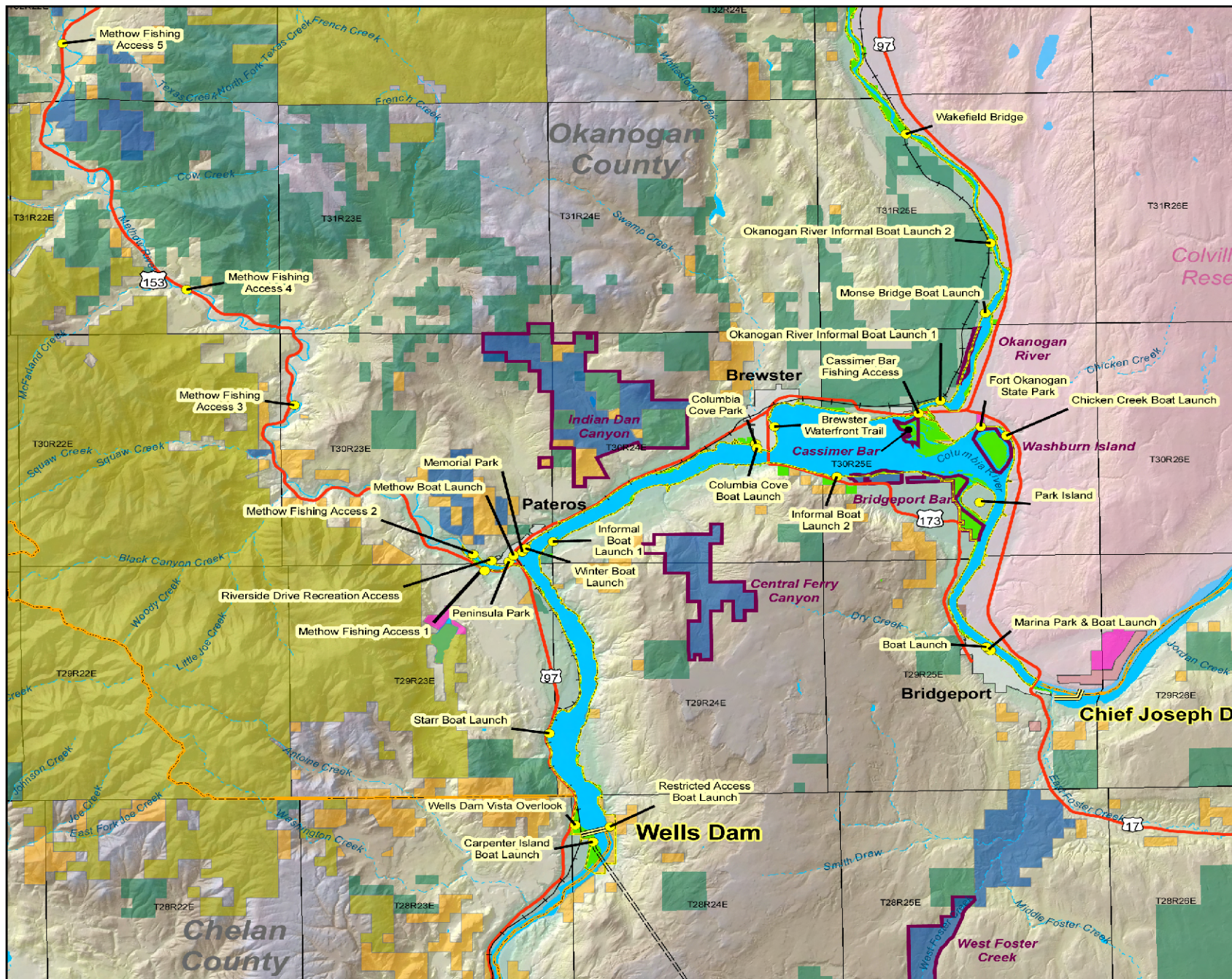
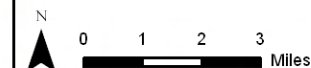


Figure 3.2-1.
Wells Hydroelectric
Project area and
recreation resources

- Dams
- 230 kV Line
- Rail
- State Routes
- Streams-Rivers
- Townships
- Wildlife Areas
- Cities
- Project Boundary
- Douglas Co. PUD
- Colville Reservation
- DNR Managed Lands
- BLM Lands
- USACOE
- US Dept. of Defense
- US Forest Service
- WDFW
- WA State Parks



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4.0 Recreation Resources

This section provides an overview of the many larger water-based regional recreation resources, as well as a brief summary of existing recreation sites and facilities in the Project area. As with other sections of this Plan, the discussion of regional recreation resources provided here is not meant to substitute for a complete regional analysis. Much of the information presented in Section 4.1 is based on research completed for Grant County PUD's FERC license application (Grant Co. PUD 2003), while information presented in Section 4.2 is based on existing Project area conditions described in the Wells Hydroelectric Project Pre-Application Document (PAD) (Douglas Co. PUD 2006).

4.1 Overview of Regional Recreation Resources and Facilities - Alternatives/Substitutes to the Wells Project Area

This section details the regional recreation resources that offer facilities and experiences similar to those available in the Wells Project area (i.e., those that are water-oriented). The focus of this section is primarily on similar reservoir and lake-type settings in the Columbia River Basin region, though other regional recreation resources are also considered. The regional analysis focuses on recreation facilities both within the Mid-Columbia region (including Douglas, Chelan and Grant County PUD facilities), as well as other water based recreation facilities within an approximately 60-mile radius of the Wells Project area. Similar regional recreation resources are described below and include the following (note, this list is not exhaustive; rather it details the region's primary reservoir- and lake-oriented recreation opportunities):

- Priest Rapids and Wanapum reservoirs
- Rock Island Reservoir
- Rocky Reach Reservoir
- Lake Chelan
- Rufus Woods Lake
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake
- Banks Lake
- Sun Lakes area
- Billy Clapp Lake
- Moses Lake
- Alta Lake
- Omak Lake

Many of these regional water bodies are displayed in Figure 4.1-1 and are described below in more detail.

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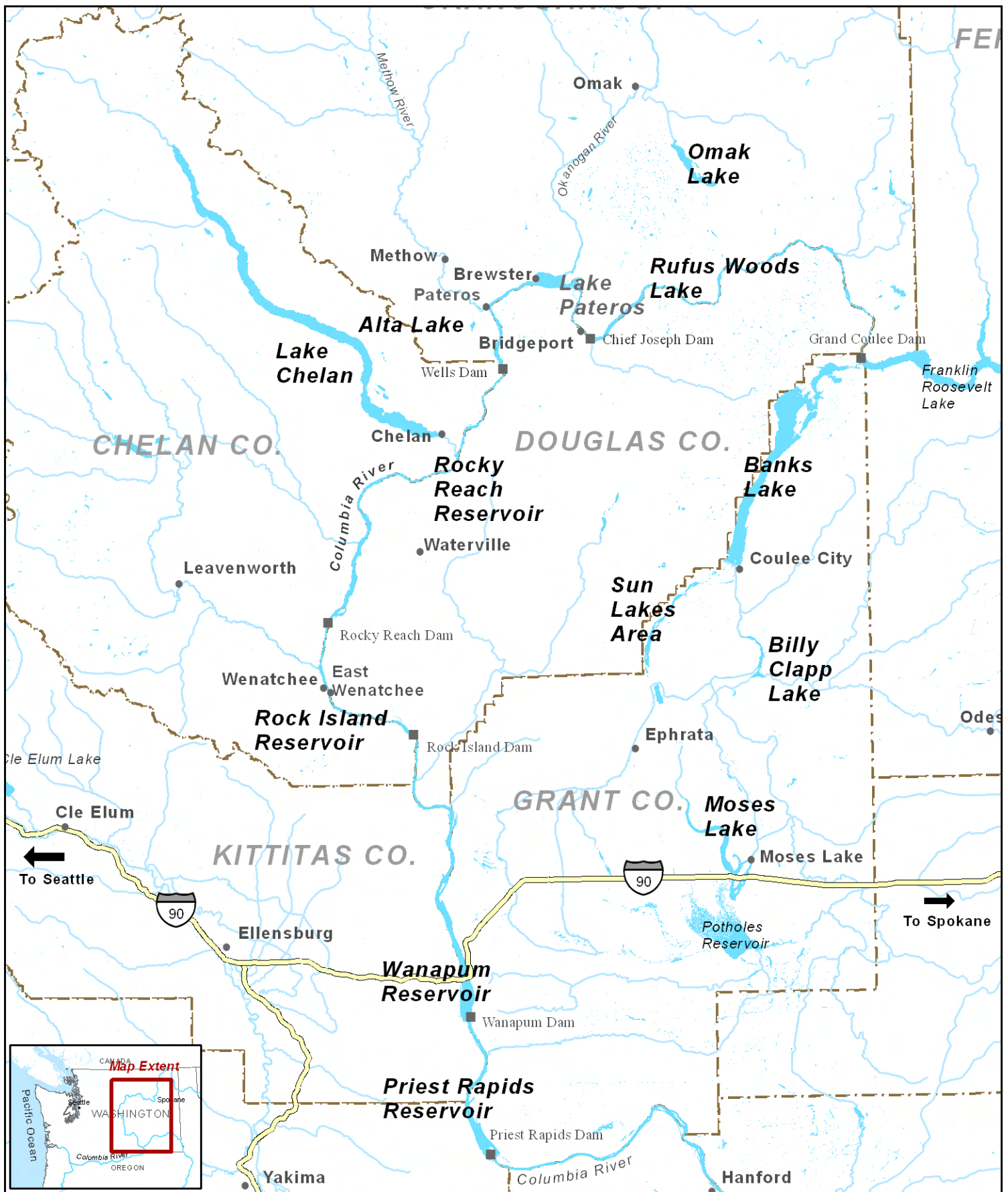


Figure 4.1-1. Regional water-based recreation resources

- Selected Cities & Towns
- Selected Dam Locations
- Interstate Highways
- County Boundaries
- Open Water
- Rivers & Streams

Disclaimer: This information is not absolute in terms of its accuracy, regarding location, quantity, or quality. It should only be used as a source of generalized information and should not be considered a valid substitute for site-specific information where such information is required by federal, state, and local government laws and ordinances.



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4.1.1 Regional Reservoirs and Lakes

Priest Rapids and Wanapum Reservoirs

Priest Rapids and Wanapum reservoirs are formed by the Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams, respectively. These dams and reservoirs are managed by Grant County PUD.

Wanapum Reservoir is characterized by a mix of publicly accessible lands, steep topography, highway access, private ownership and other restricted access, agricultural activity, and park development. The reservoir is approximately 38 miles long and runs through spectacular canyons with magnificent basalt cliffs and alluvial sand deposits. The reservoir is over 1 mile wide in some locations. Vantage is the largest town (unincorporated area) on the reservoir with a population of about 150 people. There are two residential/resort communities on this reservoir: Crescent Bar and Sunland Estates.

Much of the undeveloped western shore of the reservoir, and portions of the eastern shoreline, are big game and waterfowl habitat lands managed by the WDFW. Access to and use of the reservoir is concentrated in the Interstate 90 (I-90) corridor/Vantage area and at Crescent Bar and Sunland Estates. Recreation providers include Grant County PUD, the WSPRC, WDFW, Kittitas County, and private commercial interests such as the Riverstone Resort and Getty's Cove. The Gorge Amphitheater is located nearby and affects visitation at Wanapum Reservoir.

Priest Rapids Reservoir, downstream of Wanapum Reservoir, is characteristically different than the Wanapum Reservoir because of the shorter length of the reservoir (approximately 18 miles), lack of wide basins and sandy beaches, and greater distance from I-90. It is also farther from concerts at The Gorge Amphitheater and does not receive the same high volumes of recreational use as does Wanapum Reservoir. A few miles below Wanapum Dam, the river passes through Sentinel Gap, a geologic landmark. Downstream of the Gap, the river valley opens up into wide slopes where private ownership and agricultural activity dominate the eastern shoreline. State Route 243 closely parallels the eastern shoreline in this area. Much of the western shoreline is part of the U.S. Army's Yakima Training Center, with highly restricted public access. Locally and regionally significant recreation providers include Grand County PUD, WDFW, and private commercial interests at Desert Aire.

Public recreational access to the Priest Rapids and Wanapum reservoirs is widely available and dispersed. Since the development of the hydroelectric projects, the reservoirs have provided the region with a variety of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities, including fishing, flat-water boating, camping, sightseeing, swimming, picnicking, waterskiing, personal watercraft (PWC) use, and other recreational activities. Demand for recreation resources and activities in the region have grown significantly over the years, with almost 300,000 visitor days in 1999. Like many other recreation facilities in the Pacific Northwest, recreation use is typically high during the summer peak season (Memorial Day to Labor Day) and much lower during the remainder of the year. One important determinant of

recreation use at Priest Rapids and Wanapum reservoirs is the weather. The area is frequently subjected to high winds and temperature extremes that have a significant impact on the overall recreation demand in the area.

In total, there are 35 primary recreation sites including 23 developed recreation facilities that are accessible by car, 7 undeveloped sites accessible by car, and 5 undeveloped sites that are boat-in only on Priest Rapids and Wanapum reservoirs. Most sites (23) are on Wanapum Reservoir, while 12 sites are on Priest Rapids Reservoir. These 35 sites include the following:

- 12 boat launches with a total of 17 ramp lanes
- 1 marina
- swimming areas
- 3 visitor information facilities including 3 interpretive displays and 1 overlook
- developed camping areas with 420 campsites
- picnic areas
- Several areas suitable for wildlife observation/photography and seasonal hunting

In addition to these 35 primary recreation sites, there are additional small undeveloped shoreline dispersed sites. These sites are used for day use picnicking, boating, fishing, hunting, and sunbathing/swimming.

The internationally acclaimed outdoor concert venue, The Gorge Amphitheater, is located near Wanapum Reservoir. This facility is located on a high bluff above Wanapum Reservoir northwest of George, Washington. The Gorge Amphitheater draws large crowds (up to 20,000 visitors per event) from the Central Puget Sound area and elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest. A new campground facility located in a large field adjacent to the amphitheater provides over 8,000 campsites with limited facilities (portable toilets, no hookups). Because of the influence of The Gorge Amphitheater on the visitors to the area, the majority of visitors come from the Central Puget Sound area.

Rock Island Reservoir

Located roughly 40 miles north of Wanapum Dam along the Columbia River, this reservoir is formed by Rock Island Dam and is owned and operated by Chelan County PUD. This run-of-river project reservoir extends 21 miles upstream from the dam and contains 3,300 surface acres of water. Three day use facilities, all managed by Chelan County PUD, provide for various day-use activities and include athletic fields, trails, picnic areas and playgrounds, and two boat launches. They also contain swimming areas and an ice rink. Also located along the reservoir is Wenatchee Confluence State Park (operated by WSPRC). This facility contains 59 campsites, a boat launch, trails, athletic fields, and picnic areas. All recreation facilities at Rock Island Reservoir tend to receive high levels of use.

The reservoir is long and narrow, with a noticeable current in several areas; thus, boating is not as popular on this reservoir as it is on several others in the region. Popular activities in this area include camping, picnicking, swimming, motorized boating, walking, and the many

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organized sports that can be enjoyed at the several athletic fields. The majority of the visitors to this reservoir are from the cities of Wenatchee and East Wenatchee, located on the shores of this reservoir. However, most (82 percent) overnight visitors to Wenatchee Confluence State Park are from the Central Puget Sound.

Rocky Reach Reservoir

Formed by Rocky Reach Dam (owned and operated by Chelan County PUD), this reservoir is directly upstream of Rock Island Reservoir. Rocky Reach Reservoir is 43 miles long and contains 9,800 surface water acres. Two day-use facilities are located along the reservoir. One is managed by the City of Chelan Falls and contains a boat launch and picnic area. A visitor center at Rocky Reach Dam is managed by Chelan County PUD and contains viewing areas, a theater, fish viewing room, and a gift shop. This visitor center hosts 100,000 visitors each year. There are also 5 campgrounds located along the reservoir with a total of 276 sites. Two of the campgrounds are located in state parks managed by WSPRC. The 3 remaining campgrounds are managed by Chelan PUD, City of Entiat, and Port of Douglas County.

The reservoir is similar in nature to Rock Island as it is long and narrow; however, boating activities are more popular here than at Rock Island Reservoir due to the greater number of boat launches and other recreation facilities. Common activities include camping, picnicking, swimming, motorized boating, walking, and waterskiing. Utilization data from the campgrounds on Rocky Reach Reservoir indicate that they are at capacity on 40 percent of peak season weekend days and on 15 percent of peak season weekdays. Visitors to the area are primarily from the Central Puget Sound (61 percent overall and 81 percent of overnight visitors to Lincoln Rock State Park), with most of the remaining visitors coming from Chelan or Douglas counties.

Lake Chelan

Originally a natural lake, the level of Lake Chelan was raised by the construction of Lake Chelan Dam (owned and operated by Chelan County PUD). This 55-mile long, 33,000 acre lake is a popular tourist destination for Washington State residents, as well as regional visitors. The lake consists of two major areas: a lower, more developed section near the cities of Chelan and Manson, and more remote upper sections that lie within the Wenatchee National Forest (United States Forest Service [USFS]) and the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (LCNRA). The LCNRA is administered by the NPS. There are 9 day-use facilities, with 6 boat launches on the lake, as well as 13 private marinas. There are also 20 campgrounds; however, a majority (17) of these campgrounds are relatively primitive USFS and NPS campgrounds in the upper section of the lake. The 3 developed campgrounds are located near the city of Chelan.

The reservoir is unusual in that steep and forested mountain terrain rises from the shoreline, as opposed to other lakes and reservoirs in the region that are predominately in an arid shrub-steppe environment. There is also relatively little vehicular shoreline access at Lake Chelan. The lake is a popular destination for many water-based activities such as power boating, fishing, PWC use, and sail boating. In addition, Lake Chelan is unique among other areas in

this region due to its proximity to a wealth of hiking trails on USFS- and NPS-managed lands. A passenger ferry operates on the lake, shuttling visitors to the various primitive campgrounds and trailheads along the shoreline. Overall, use of the lake is heavy during the peak season. On weekends during the peak use season, the developed campgrounds are at 70 percent occupancy, while the primitive campgrounds are at 25 percent occupancy. During the same period, day use facilities are utilized at 40 percent, while the surface of the lake is utilized at 40 percent of capacity. Most visitors are from the Central Puget Sound counties (41 percent) or Chelan or Douglas counties (29 percent).

Rufus Woods Lake

Formed by the USACOE Chief Joseph Dam, Rufus Woods Lake is 51 miles long and contains 8,400 surface acres of water. There are 3 recreation facilities on the reservoir, a campground, and two day use areas. Bridgeport State Park is located northeast of the town of Bridgeport on the north shore of the reservoir. It features 42 campsites, day-use facilities, and a boat launch. Day use facilities associated with Rufus Woods Lake include the Chief Joseph Dam Visitor Center and the Grand Coulee Dam Visitor Arrival Center. Located inside the powerhouse at Chief Joseph Dam, the Chief Joseph Dam Visitor Center features turbine viewing areas, interpretive exhibits, and a slide show. Although it provides interpretive facilities for Lake Roosevelt and Grand Coulee Dam, the Grand Coulee Dam Visitor Arrival Center is located at the south end of Rufus Woods Lake. It features an interpretive center, picnic area, and a large grassy area near the water. The Visitor Arrival Center is also a very popular viewing location for the Laser Light Show that is projected onto the face of the dam every night during the summer months.

Rufus Woods Lake is the farthest north in a string of long narrow reservoirs before reaching the wider basins of Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake (Lake Roosevelt). Popular activities include fishing, camping, swimming, picnicking, motorized boating, and water skiing. Recreational use of this reservoir is light due to the limited number of access points, recreation facilities, and boat launches. Most visitors are from Chelan or Douglas counties, some of whom visit the State Park while passing through the area.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake (Lake Roosevelt)

Stretching for 151 miles behind BOR's Grand Coulee Dam, Lake Roosevelt lies entirely within the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (LRNRA), which is administered by the NPS. Lake Roosevelt is a major statewide, regional, and national recreational attraction and is the most popular house boating destination in Washington State. There are nine day-use areas and 24 boat launches scattered throughout the length of Lake Roosevelt. In addition, there are 35 campgrounds, 28 managed by the NPS (18 car-accessible, 10 boat-accessible), five managed by the Colville Confederated Tribes, and two managed by the Spokane Tribes. Together, these campgrounds offer nearly 1,000 campsites. There are also several private marinas that offer houseboat rentals and boating-related supplies.

Lake Roosevelt is a popular destination for many types of water-based activities, including house boating, power boating, fishing, and PWC use. While these activities dominate the recreational use of the area, other common activities include hiking and visiting interpretive

facilities and visitor centers, such as Kettle Falls and Fort Spokane. The LRNRA receives over 1.5 million visitors each year. However, the vast array of recreation facilities prevents the area from being utilized at or near capacity. Three campgrounds (Porcupine Bay, Keller, and Fort Spokane) often experience capacity utilization during most peak-season weekends. This is likely due to their proximity to Spokane and major highways, while more remote sites experience much lower use levels.

Banks Lake

Formed behind BOR's Dry Falls Dam, 27-mile long Banks Lake is located in the upper canyon of Grand Coulee. The reservoir is a popular fishing and boating destination with 27,400 surface water acres. There are a total of 12 boat launches that provide access to the water for visitors, three developed day-use area, and five campgrounds (661 sites). Two of the campgrounds are privately owned (292 sites). Steamboat Rock State Park has 203 sites in the campground and 15 boat-in sites nearby. The remaining two campgrounds are located at the southern end of the reservoir. These include the campground in the Coulee City Community Park (134 sites), and Dry Falls Campground (17 sites) (WDFW). North Dam Park, managed by BOR, is the only developed day use only facility in the area and has picnic facilities and restrooms (the two other day use facilities are provided in the campgrounds identified above). Six of the 12 boat launches are located in the aforementioned recreation facilities, while the remaining six are managed by WDFW and are scattered around the reservoir.

Popular activities at Banks Lake include fishing, camping, motorized boating, swimming, waterskiing, picnicking, and hiking. During nearly all peak season weekends Steamboat Rock State Park is utilized at 100 percent of capacity; use levels are at 60 percent on weekdays during the peak season. This utilization decreases to around 50 percent on weekends during the fall. Use of other recreation facilities in this area follows a similar pattern with slightly lower levels of use. Some visitors to Banks Lake are from the Moses Lake or Spokane areas (particularly day-users); however, 80 percent of visitors who are camping at Steamboat Rock State Park are from the Central Puget Sound area.

Sun Lakes Area

The Sun Lakes area consists of a series of six lakes over 3,400 acres in size situated south of Banks Lake in the lower Grand Coulee. A myriad of smaller lakes and marshy areas are also scattered throughout the area. The focal point for recreation use in the area is Sun Lakes State Park. Lakes in the area include Deep Lake (107 acres), Park Lake (346 acres), Blue Lake (532 acres), Lake Lenore (1,670 acres), Soap Lake (520 acres), and Alkali Lake (308 acres). These lakes are popular with anglers and boaters. Several private resorts are located on these lakes, many of which have camping facilities and boat launches. Sun Lakes State Park has 202 campsites, an interpretive center, day-use facilities, and a boat launch. Including those in the state park, there are eight boat launches in the Sun Lakes area. Also located nearby is Dry Falls Interpretive Center (operated by WSPRC), a visitor facility that features educational and interpretive exhibits related to the Ice Age Floods.

Popular activities in the Sun Lakes area include fishing, camping, motorized boating, non-motorized boating, swimming, waterskiing, picnicking, golfing, wildlife observation, and hiking. Sun Lakes State Park is utilized at nearly 100 percent of capacity during most peak season weekends. Use levels are at 70 percent on weekdays during the peak season. This utilization decreases to around 60 percent on weekends during the fall. Use of other recreation facilities and lakes in this area follows a similar pattern with slightly lower levels of use. Many of the visitors to the Sun Lakes area are from the Central Puget Sound area, including 80 percent of the visitors who are camping at Sun Lakes State Park. Smaller percentages of day users and off-season visitors are from the local area.

Billy Clapp Lake

Billy Clapp Lake, approximately six miles in length, is formed by BOR's Pinto Dam. Sumner Falls State Park, administered by WSPRC, is located at the northern end of the reservoir and features day use facilities including a picnic area and five miles of shoreline. The only other facility on the reservoir is a WDFW boat launch.

Recreational use of this reservoir is relatively light with some picnicking and day use at the State Park, as well as boat and bank fishing. Most of the visitors to this reservoir are from the Moses Lake and Ephrata areas or are passing through on the adjacent road.

Moses Lake

A natural lake surrounding the city of Moses Lake, this 6,800-acre lake is a popular destination for power boaters and anglers, particularly area residents. Moses Lake, like Rock Island reservoir, is in an urban setting, as opposed to the predominantly rural character of many of the other water bodies in the region. There are several public and private recreation facilities on the lake, with the primary public facility being Moses Lake Park, administered by the City of Moses Lake. This park features day-use facilities, a concession stand, and a boat launch. There are a total of seven boat launches on the lake that provide water access for visitors. Managers of these sites include the City of Moses Lake Parks and Recreation Department, WDFW, and the Moses Lake Irrigation District. There are several private campgrounds/recreational vehicle (RV) parks located in the city of Moses Lake that are situated on the shoreline.

Popular activities at Moses Lake include fishing, camping, motorized boating, swimming, waterskiing, picnicking, golfing, and wildlife observation. Area campgrounds and resorts are utilized at 80 percent during the peak season, with higher utilization rates on peak season weekends. In addition, the parking lot at Moses Lake State Park (day use only) is frequently at capacity on weekends during the peak season. Many of the visitors to Moses Lake are from the Central Puget Sound area, while smaller percentages of day users and off-season visitors are from the local area.

Alta Lake State Park

Managed by the WSPRC, Alta Lake State Park is located approximately 4 miles southwest of Pateros on State Route 153 and provides both day use and overnight facilities. Alta Lake is

about 2 miles long with a width of ½-mile. Day use facilities include 1 boat ramp (2 lanes) and associated boarding docks, 2 miles of hiking trails, and picnic sites. The campground at Alta Lake has 168 tent sites, 32 RV sites with hook-ups, and 1 group site. The lake and shoreline provide opportunities for many water-based recreation opportunities, including boating, personal watercraft use, and fishing, among others. Water skiing is not encouraged on Alta Lake; instead, WSPRC directs visitors to the Columbia River, a more appropriate location for this activity.

Omak Lake

Omak Lake, an approximately 3,200 acre lake, lies within the Colville Indian Reservation Northeast of the Project Area. Omak Lake is deep lake and is 12 miles long and has sandy beaches along some shores. Use facilities at Mission End include a boating/swimming dock and camping area. Use facilities at Nicholson Beach, the western side of Omak Lake, include a beach for swimming, boating, camping and fishing, as well as campsite and outhouse facilities. Fishing on the lake is allowed by permit from the Colville Tribe. Use at the lake is limited, and some access is granted to only Tribe members. Omak Lake has sparse recreation use because of the difficulty and restriction of access.

4.1.2 Other Regional Recreation Resources

In addition to the reservoirs and lakes described in Section 4.1.1, there are many other regional recreation opportunities in the vicinity of the Project (within approximately 60 miles of the Project). Other regional recreation resources are managed by a variety of entities and provide a multitude of recreation opportunities, some of which may be similar to those available in the Project area. Several of the federally and state managed regional recreation resources are listed below (note, some of these resources may have previously been mentioned in Section 4.1.1). As with the reservoirs and lakes discussed in Section 4.1.1, the list of other regional recreation resources provided here is not meant to be comprehensive; rather it provides an overview of the primary recreation providers in the region and some of the sites, facilities, and use areas they manage.

In addition to the list of federally and state managed regional recreation resources provided below, many of the towns, cities, and counties in the region surrounding the Project also provide important recreation opportunities for both area residents and visitors alike. In addition, US 97 is itself a National Scenic byway. Some of these recreation resources provide similar experiences and opportunities to those found in the Project area; however, many are focused on more urban (e.g., city parks, ball fields, community centers, trails, etc.), land-based activities and opportunities.

USFS

The following national forests are located in the region surrounding the Project:

- Okanogan National Forest
- Wenatchee National Forest

Each of these national forests provides both overnight and day use opportunities. While these opportunities are primarily land-based, they also have some water-based opportunities.

NPS

The NPS manages the following recreation areas in the region surrounding the Project:

- Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area
- Lake Chelan National Recreation Area

Each of these national recreation areas provide a large number of water-based recreation opportunities and are discussed in more detail in Section 4.1.1.

WSPRC

The following state parks in the region surrounding the Project are managed by the WSPRC:

- Alta Lake State Park
- Bridgeport State Park
- Steamboat Rock State Park
- Sun Lakes State Park
- Lincoln Rock State Park
- Moses Lake State Park
- Pearrygin Lake State Park

As discussed in Section 4.1.1, many of these state parks provide both water-based and land-based recreation opportunities.

4.1.3 Mid-Columbia River Hydroelectric Project Recreation Resources and Comparison

Table 4.1-1 lists key attributes related to recreation and public use at the three primary PUDs in the Project region, including Douglas, Chelan, and Grant counties. While all three PUDs share similarities, their access and estimates of existing recreation and public use differ. These differences in estimated use levels are due to a variety of factors, including Project size (e.g., surface water area available for recreation), number and types of recreation facilities offered, ease of access, and proximity to major highways and cities, among others. Additionally, a visitor's decision-making process related to their recreation destination is multi-faceted and is likely influenced by social (e.g., preferences for setting types and experiences, crowding, etc.) and economic factors (e.g., gas prices, recession, etc.), in addition to those physical factors listed in Table 4.1-1.

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Table 4.1-1. Recreation- and public use-related comparison of Douglas, Chelan, and Grant County PUDs.

Variables	Douglas Co. PUD	Chelan Co. PUD	Grant Co. PUD
Reservoir Surface Area (acres) ¹	9,740 (Wells Reservoir)	46,100 total ac. 33,000 – Lake Chelan 9,800 – Rocky Reach Reservoir 3,300 – Rock Island Reservoir	22,405 total ac. 14,680 – Wanapum Reservoir 7,725 – Priest Rapids Reservoir
Number of Recreation Areas ²	30 total	60 total 48 – Lake Chelan 8 – Rocky Reach Reservoir 4 – Rock Island Reservoir	35 total 23 – Wanapum Reservoir 12 – Priest Rapids Reservoir
Estimate of Rec. Use ³	19,258 to 44,929	4,688,230	421,773
Primary Road Access ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US 97 • US 2 • State Route 20 • State Route 17 • State Route 153 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US 97 • US 2 • State Route 28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-90 • State Route 243 • State Route 28 • State Route 26
Proximity to Major Cities (miles) ⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wenatchee: 60 • Seattle: 200 • Tri-Cities: 175 • Spokane: 145 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wenatchee: 0-45 • Seattle: 150-185 • Tri-Cities: 120-160 • Spokane: 155-190 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wenatchee – 50-70 • Seattle: 150-155 • Tri-Cities: 55-80 • Spokane: 145-160
Shoreline Conditions	Steep, inaccessible, and/or largely undeveloped, except at Brewster, Bridgeport and Pateros	Steep, inaccessible, and/or largely undeveloped except in Wenatchee, Chelan and at other key locations	Steep, inaccessible, and/or largely undeveloped except at 3 private developments and the Vantage area
Adjacent Land Uses	Private/Agricultural Public (State Parks) Colville Indian Reservation, PUD lands	Private/Agricultural Public (USFS, NPS, State Parks), PUD lands	Private/Agricultural Public (NPS, State Parks, WDFW, Army YTC), PUD lands
Environmental Constraints	Sensitive natural and cultural resources throughout	Sensitive natural and cultural resources throughout	Sensitive natural and cultural resources throughout

¹ Normal maximum surface water area.

² Number of sites only (capacity is not taken into consideration). Includes sites not managed by the PUDs.

³ Most current annual estimate of recreation use (Chelan Co. PUD estimate in “visitor counts” and Grant Co. PUD in “recreation visitor days”) – Chelan Co. PUD, 2006; Grant Co. PUD, 2002. Use estimates for Chelan Co. PUD primarily include use at Chelan Co. PUD-managed sites. Additionally, for Chelan Co. PUD, approximately 68% of annual use (3,164,912) is attributable to 2 parks (Walla Walla Point and Wenatchee Riverfront).

⁴ Primary highway access routes.

⁵ Approximate mileage from select cities. Ranges are provided for Chelan Co. and Grant Co. PUDs to acknowledge distances to multiple Project reservoirs.

Based on this overview (including the number and types of regional recreation opportunities identified in Sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2), the following concepts may likely influence current (2007 5-Year RAP) and future Project area recreation planning efforts (relicensing studies and new license implementation):

- Water-based recreation facilities in the region are widespread. Use levels are higher at locations where road access is very good and major state or federal highways and population centers are located nearby. Use levels are greatest nearest Wenatchee, Chelan and Vantage.
- The supply of recreation facilities and opportunities in both the region and the Project area is generally meeting current demand season wide, though visitation at certain sites is constrained by existing capacity limitation, such as boat launches. Many sites experience some crowding during peak summer weekends and major fishing events.
- The number of recreation facilities available in the Project area and region is variable due to the changing supply of facilities that results from additions, renovations, and changes in the dates of operation among the various recreation providers in the Project area.
- Utilization of existing recreation facilities is a key indicator of how supply is meeting demand.
- All of these three hydro projects have some environmental and natural resource constraints along their shorelines or on the water. Fishery management is a significant constraint due to federally and state-listed species. These constraints vary by location and are significant in the Project area.

4.2 Wells Project Area Recreation Facilities

The District's commitment to developing and enhancing recreational access to lands and waters within the Wells Project Boundary has been documented in its Wells Recreation Plan (1967), Wells Recreation Plan Supplement (1974), Public Use Plan (1982) and Recreation Action Plans (1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002). The District's commitment to recreation and reservoir access has resulted in the development of over 30 access sites and use areas along both sides of the reservoir and up the Methow and Okanogan rivers. In addition, the District has funded and developed major park and recreation facilities along the reservoir in Pateros, Brewster, and Bridgeport.

Figure 3.2-1 (presented previously) shows recreation sites and use areas in the Wells Project area. Descriptions of existing recreational sites and facilities within the Wells Project area are provided below.

Lake Pateros (Wells Reservoir) is a recreation resource used primarily by residents living in the region surrounding the Project. Local residents have generally easy roadway access to reservoir at the three cities (Pateros, Brewster and Bridgeport). Roadway access from the greater Seattle/Puget Sound area typically entails traveling via I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass to US 97. US 97 borders the reservoir on the west and extends to British Columbia. Other routes from western Washington include US 2 over Stevens Pass and summer access via

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State Route 20 (also known as the North Cascades Highway). Visitors from eastern Washington typically visit the area via US 2 from Spokane. Canadian visitors access the area by heading south on US 97, which meets the reservoir near Malott.

Many people visit the Wells Project area during the summer to participate in recreation opportunities, including boating, fishing, hiking and RV camping. Additionally, sportsmen visit the area during the fall season to fish for steelhead and to hunt for waterfowl, upland birds, and deer.

4.2.1 Primary Recreation Sites and Facilities

Wells Dam

Wells Dam Vista Overlook

A viewing area overlooking Wells Dam from the west is located off of US 97. A turn lane for accessing the Wells Dam Vista Overlook off of US 97 was funded by the District and completed in 2006. The Wells Dam Overlook includes vehicle and day-use RV parking, restrooms, and a picnic shelter. Exhibits at the Overlook include Native American pictographs, a project information kiosk and an original Wells Project turbine runner. The Wells Dam Overlook is open 24 hours-a-day (Figures 4.2-2 and 4.2-3). All facilities at the Wells Dam Vista Overlook are within the FERC Project boundary.



Figure 4.2-2. Wells Dam Vista Overlook and Wells Project information signs