

SUPPLEMENT TO:

L. KEITH HELLSTROM'S REPORT

"WELLS RECREATION PLAN"

MAY 10, 1974

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF DOUGLAS COUNTY

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During construction of the Wells Hydroelectric Project, in compliance with Article 44 of the License, it was decided that a recreation plan should be prepared by a licensed landscape architect. To this end L. Keith Hellstrom, landscape architect from Spokane, Washington, was retained to provide the District with such a plan.

His report entitled "*Wells Recreation Plan*", was completed and submitted to the District in January of 1967. The plan was developed as a guide for the coordinated development of recreation facilities contiguous to the Wells Project. Primary emphasis was placed on the area immediately affected by the Wells reservoir, now called Lake Pateros.

While recognizing that the basic function of Wells is to produce power, Hellstrom says, "The intent of the plan is to insure that the maximum sustained public benefit will be realized from the collateral recreation resources of the project."

The plan was submitted to the Federal Power Commission and accepted. This document is intended to serve as a supplement to that plan and is being written to update the Hellstrom report and to reaffirm the District's interest in the future of the recreation resources in the Wells Project area.

The decade between 1960 and 1970 saw for the first time a decrease in population of North Central Washington. The feeling among planners in the area is that the decrease is due partly to the fact that hydroelectric construction has decreased, and partly because people are beginning to move into more urban areas.

The Wells area will undoubtedly feel this population reduction less than areas downstream because of the temporary influence of construction at Coulee and Chief Joseph Hydroelectric Projects.

Seasonal variations in population are fairly extreme in the fifty mile zone surrounding Wells because of the influx of itinerant agricultural workers and because of the recreational appeal of the area.

Planners are still predicting an all-over increase in Washington State population of approximately 1.2 million people between the years of 1970 and 2000. Nothing in the 1970 census figures for this area indicates that there will be drastic changes in the predictions Hellstrom used in his 1967 report.

The three principal towns on Lake Pateros, Pateros, Brewster and Bridgeport, each have to some extent developed water related recreational facilities. Pateros has a city owned boat launching and water sport lagoon in conjunction with a park with picnic facilities that was included as

a part of the town relocation resulting from Wells construction. The town also maintains a park with picnic facilities along the Columbia adjacent to their shopping mall.

Brewster also has a city owned boat launching ramp, water sport lagoon, and park which relates to the boat launching area and to the high school athletic facilities. In addition they have updated their airport with increased runway length plus paving, and have added a fixed base operator, so access by air is available to coast residents for use of the reservoir.

Bridgeport has an unusually large number of small parks for a town of its size. In addition to the existing parks, they are in the process of developing a boat launching and park complex on Lake Pateros. When finished this park will have picnic facilities and will be available for water recreation purposes.

Two adjacent but otherwise unrelated developments are at present being considered on Bridgeport Bar. One is a game bird feeding program which will be covered later in this report.

The other is Chief Joseph State Park. The land for this park was deeded to Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission by the District. There is considerable interest

in the project within the organization. They have indicated that they are, ". . . indeed anxious to develop at the park site and will seek every possible means of funding to develop this area."

The drawing showing the latest proposal is included in this document as Exhibit I.

The remaining State parks within a fifty mile area surrounding Wells (there are six) receive heavy use during the summer months. The completion of the new North Cross State Highway will tend to increase the use of these parks.

Expo '74, the Spokane World's Fair, will undoubtedly cause a short-term increase in traffic through these areas. However, unless Expo becomes a civic attraction similar to the Seattle Center, this can be expected to fall off after the show closes.

Under an agreement with the Washington State Department of Game, the District has taken the responsibility for producing and releasing 30,000 pounds of catchable rainbow trout each year. These fish are released primarily in streams that are tributaries of the Methow system. The total amounts to approximately 90,000 fish per year.

The District also operates a steelhead and salmon rearing program to replace former runs in the Columbia River. In addition to this a coho program has been started, and several hundred thousand coho are released

each year for sport fishing purposes.

One outgrowth of the Wells Project is a new spiny ray fishing source in the reservoir. Walleyes have been found across from Bridgeport and at the mouth of the Okanogan River. In addition, bass, crappie, and brown bullheads have begun to show at the mouth of the Okanogan.

The District has also created an access area on Carpenter's Island immediately below the dam and has developed a boat launch in what has become an outstanding salmon and steelhead fishing stretch of the river. Although the area was created primarily for the sport of steelheading, it now appears that nearly as many salmon are being caught as steelhead.

The Washington State Department of Game has undergone a change in its thinking regarding recreation areas and is now orienting the sections that were once dedicated strictly to hunting and fishing to a broader recreational concept. Emphasis is now being placed on bird-watching, photography, hiking, and other non-consumption uses. In some areas they have even gone so far as to add picnic facilities. In line with this thinking, the District has acquired four parking areas at various locations on the Methow River. In conjunction with this, easements have been provided along the stream for all recreational purposes with the exception

of hunting, amounting to approximately three and one-half miles to date.

The District has also undertaken a habitat improvement program on certain project lands designed to improve upland bird habitat in the project area. This program involved planting approximately 19,000 trees to provide cover for upland game birds. In addition, annual grain strips have been planted to provide food for birds and to provide bird attraction areas during the hunting season.

The District has also established winter feeding areas to insure a carry-over of birds during severe winters.

In addition, three areas totaling 750 acres on the Monse Peninsula, Washburn Island, and Bridgeport Bar have been designated as public hunting areas. Mature cock pheasants have been released during hunting season to supplement the natural upland game bird population in these areas.

Under a program designed to mitigate for displacement and loss of game habitat along the reservoir due to Wells Dam construction, the District has purchased or taken options for the Washington State Department of Game, nearly 7400 acres of land in four individual parcels. The Department intends to preserve, enhance and perpetuate both the renewable wildlife resources and the non-renewable base resources, to provide as much wildlife recreation as

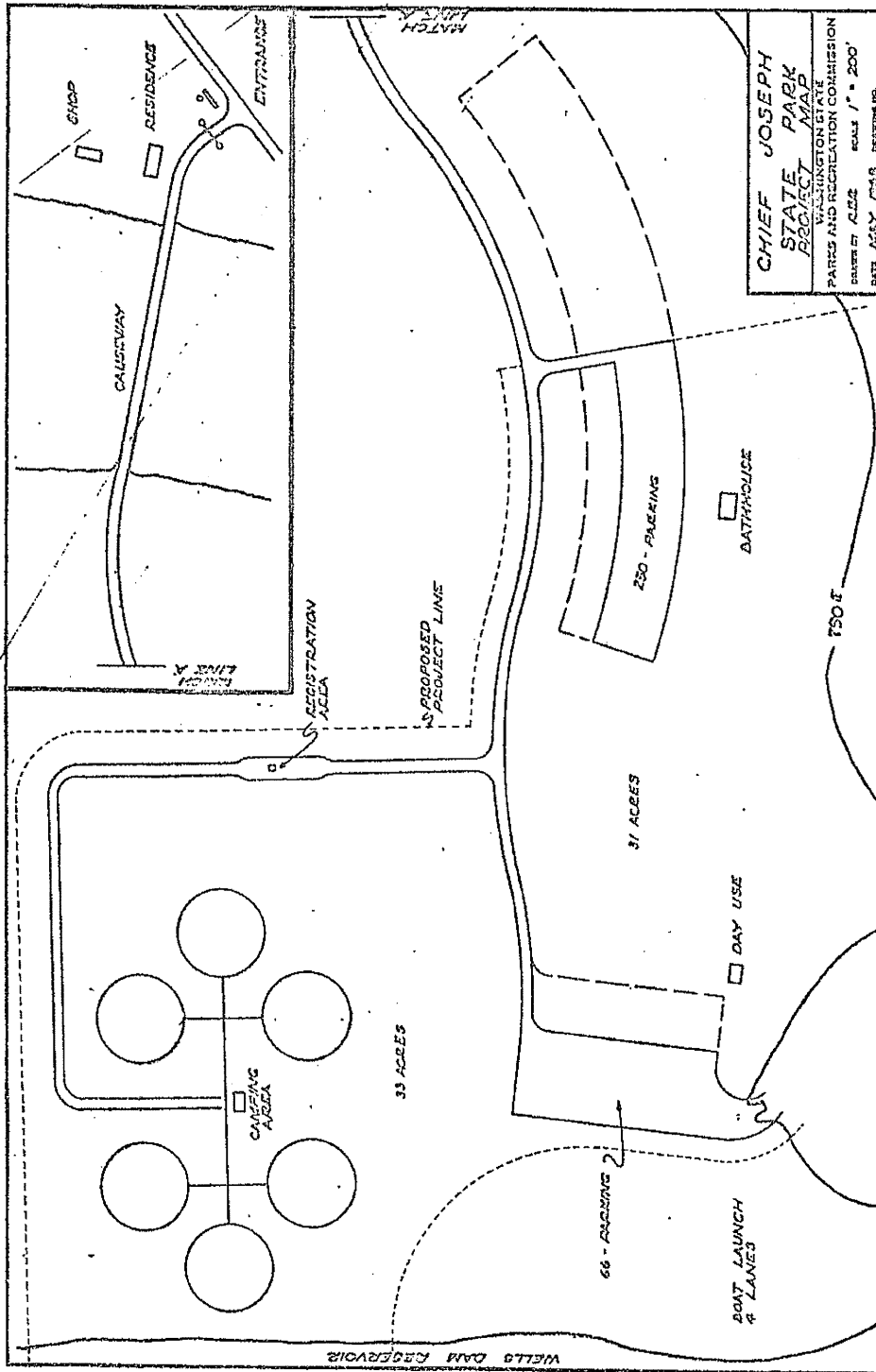
is compatible with these goals and objectives.

Roughly 3,000 acres of the above land is situated in Indian Dan Canyon, which is located to the west of the reservoir between the towns of Pateros and Brewster. The Game Department plans to make some improvements in the canyon and it will be intensely managed as a wildlife recreation area. They anticipate that Indian Dan Canyon will be managed primarily as an upland game bird hunting area and bird releases will be made during each season.

Another 1500 acres is located in Central Ferry Canyon, which is directly east of the reservoir, and about the same distance upstream from Pateros. As in Indian Dan Canyon, the Department plans to improve the area and manage it as a wildlife recreation development. This canyon will also be operated primarily as an upland game bird hunting area and bird releases will be made during hunting seasons.

Two other parcels comprising approximately 1400 acres, are located on Bridgeport Bar and in West Foster Creek. The development on Bridgeport Bar is presently being used in the District's gamebird feeding program, which will be turned over to the Game Department for future management. The Foster Creek acreage, although some distance from the reservoir, will also be turned over to the Game Department as a part of the all-over program.

This land has all been set aside and will be managed by the Washington State Department of Game, with funds provided by the District, for wildlife related recreation.



88
92

EXHIBIT I

