

FIGURE 1. CRITICAL AREAS

Legend

- WCRD Ditch
- Project Area
- 100-year Flood Plain
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine
- Other

BENEFITS TO AQUATIC WILDLIFE

This project is intended to enhance aquatic habitat by:

- **Increasing** year-round water supplies in the Methow River.
- **Stabilizing** declining water levels in existing lakes (Big Twin, Little Twin, Dibble, Barnsley) that have occurred for over 10 years.
- **Decreasing** seasonal water level fluctuations in lakes (reservoir effect).
- **Increasing** shorelines and water volumes in lakes.
- **Inundating** reed-canary grass currently plaguing existing shorelines formed after water levels declined since about 2000.
- **Creating** new aquatic and wetland environment including a surface water body at the Kettle.
- **Creating** a boulder cascade discharge channel to Big Twin Lake that will be designed to facilitate spawning of resident fish from the lake.
- **Improving** the trout fishery at Big and Little Twin Lakes.

TABLE 2. Plants documented in the Twin Lakes Storage Project Area (Herrera, 2010)

Common Name	
Cattail	Black Hawthorn
Softstem Bulrush	Willow
Quaking Aspen	Bitterbrush
Black Cottonwood	Bluebunch Wheatgrass
Serviceberry	Wax Currant
Bitter Cherry	Ponderosa Pine

TABLE 3. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act known or suspected to occur in the Methow Watershed (from Fisher, 2010)

Common Name	Federal Status
Spring Chinook salmon	Endangered
Summer Steelhead	Endangered
Bull Trout	Threatened
Coho	Unlisted
Summer Chinook Salmon	Unlisted
Northern Spotted Owl	Threatened
Gray Wolf	Threatened
Grizzly Bear	Threatened
Canada Lynx	Threatened

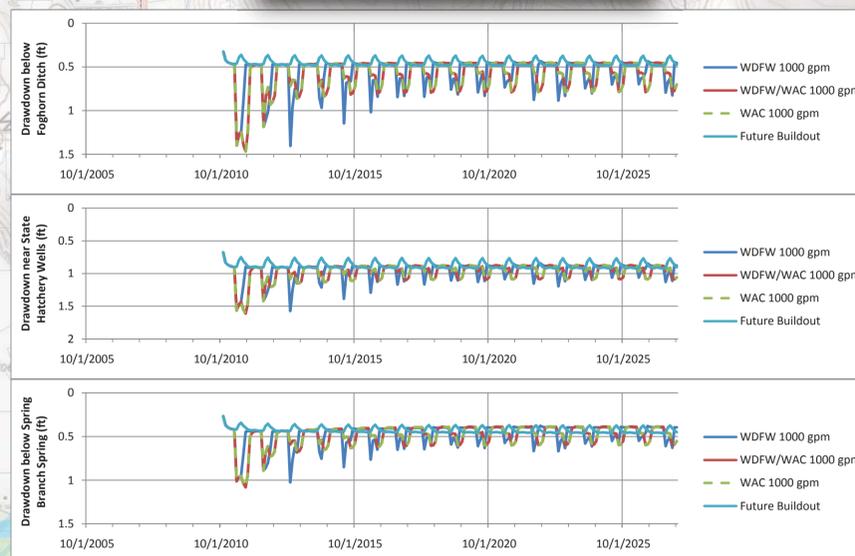
TABLE 4. Animals documented in the Twin Lakes Storage Project Area (Herrera, 2010)

Common Name	
Mule Deer	Songbirds
Coyote	Pileated Woodpecker
Squirrels	Painted Turtle
Common Loon	Amphibians
Mallard	Bald Eagle
Canada Geese	Golden Eagle
Great Blue Heron	Osprey
Red Winged Blackbird	Red Tailed Hawk

TABLE 1. Areas for discussion identified by the SEPA co-lead agencies and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Area Identified	Mitigation
Potential impacts of withdrawals from wells on groundwater and surface water bodies	Complete test well and analyze impacts to nearby wells prior to project build-out Pumping restricted to periods when flows are above the MIF 70% of water withdrawn will return, augmenting Methow River flows during low-flow periods
Potential impacts of discharging water from wells to surface water bodies and to groundwater	Temperature modeling shows water quality will not be impacted Discharge structures designed and constructed to increase oxygenation Infiltration gallery to maintain groundwater quality
Possible long-term changes in water budget resulting from potential impacts and future groundwater development	Groundwater supplies to be enhanced Studies indicate will not result in increased well development allowed by existing zoning
Potential impacts of increased water levels on jurisdictional shoreline areas	Water levels restored to historic levels (pre-2001) "Reservoir Effect" minimized
Potential impacts of work occurring within or adjacent to jurisdictional shoreline areas	Obtain and conduct work under Permit "Boulder Cascade" discharge structures to minimize erosion

FIGURE 2. Predicted Drawdown Hydrographs



A full bibliography of supporting environmental documents is available on the table and online at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/tlws.html>

SEPA (STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT)

In 2012, Ecology initiated project review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Washington State Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River and Okanogan County are co-lead agencies for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Documents related to the SEPA process are available for review.

- SEPA Checklist
- Determination of Significance
- SEPA Co-Lead Memorandum of Understanding
- Conveyance for return flow to the Methow River

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Under WAC 197-11-360 and -410, Ecology initiated scoping to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposal. Written scoping comments will be accepted through Friday, December 14, 2012.

Option 1- Complete and submit forms available at this Open House

Option 2- Send written comments

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