



**Final Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement
For The Columbia River Water
Management Program
Under Chapter 90.90 RCW**

Volume I

February 15, 2007
Washington State Department of Ecology
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Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement For The Columbia River Water Management Program

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Name: Water Resources Program Publications
Address: PO Box 47600, Olympia WA 98504-7600
E-mail: WRPublications@ecy.wa.gov
Phone: (360) 407-6600

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200 • Yakima, Washington 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

February 15, 2007

Dear interested parties:

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has prepared and issued this Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Chapter 43.21C RCW) and the SEPA Rules (Chapter 197-11 WAC). The programmatic EIS allows for early review of the Columbia River Water Management Program and is appropriately used to assist "agencies and the public to focus on issues that are ready for decision and exclude from consideration issues already decided or not yet ready" (WAC 197-11-060(5)).

The Draft Programmatic EIS was issued October 5, 2006. The public comment period was open until November 20, 2006 and extended until November 22, 2006. Public Workshops were held from 4 pm to 7 pm on October 24 in Moses Lake, October 25 in Colville, November 1 in Kennewick and November 7 in Wenatchee. Additional comments were received via e-mail and mail. The comments received are included in Chapter 8 of the Final EIS. Written responses are provided for each comment. Where appropriate, changes have been made to the EIS text in response to comments or to provide clarification or updates to information.

The Draft Programmatic EIS evaluated conceptual approaches to the development of a Columbia River Water Management Program, which implements the Columbia River Water Management Act. The Act was passed by the state legislature in February 2006. The major components evaluated in this document are storage, conservation, Voluntary Regional Agreements, instream flow, and policy alternatives for implementing requirements of the legislation. Three early implementation actions—Lake Roosevelt Drawdown Project, Supplemental Feed Route Project to supply Potholes Reservoir, and the proposed Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association Voluntary Regional Agreement—are also evaluated. These early actions reflect a higher level of detail than the broad Management Program components, but all three will require additional project-level review under SEPA.

The Final EIS will form the basis for subsequent development of the Management Program, as well as for subsequent SEPA environmental review of individual program elements. This EIS has evaluated a programmatic or non-project action for the Management Program. It is likely that a number of the major elements of the Management Program would trigger additional project level environmental review under SEPA and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Sandison".

Derek I. Sandison
Central Regional Director
SEPA Responsible Official

FINAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE COLUMBIA RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

Brief Description of Proposal:

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) was directed through the Columbia River Water Management Act (Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESSHB) 2860) to “aggressively pursue the development of water supplies to benefit both instream and out-of-stream uses.” Ecology is currently in the process of developing a Columbia River Water Management Program (Management Program) to facilitate implementation of the legislation. The Management Program includes administration of the Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development Account which the legislation created to fund storage, conservation, and other projects to provide new water supplies for the Columbia River Basin. The legislation also authorizes Ecology to enter into Voluntary Regional Agreements (VRAs) to provide new water for out-of-stream use, streamline the application process, and protect instream flows. This Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is part of the development process for the Management Program. The EIS evaluates the potential impacts of the major components of the Management Program. It also evaluates potential impacts of early actions that will be implemented under the Management Program—additional drawdown of Lake Roosevelt to supply a variety of water uses in the project area, a supplemental feed route to Potholes Reservoir, and the VRA submitted by the Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association.

Proposed or Tentative Date for Implementation:

Implementation of the Management Program is ongoing. No specific storage or conservation projects have been identified for implementation under the Management Program. Ecology has developed the initial water supply and long-term water supply and demand forecast, which will assist Ecology in identifying and prioritizing potential storage and conservation projects. Implementation of specific future projects may require additional environmental review and permitting.

Proponent:

Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Lead Agency Responsible Official:

Derek I. Sandison, Regional Director
Central Regional Office
Washington State Department of Ecology
15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902

SEPA Lead Agency Contact Person:

Derek I. Sandison, Regional Director
Central Regional Office
Washington State Department of Ecology
15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902

Permits, Licenses, and Approvals Required for Proposal:

Because the specific nature of projects that will be proposed under the Management Program is not yet known, it is not possible to present a complete list of permits, licenses, and approvals that may be required for the components of the Management Program. It is possible, however, to identify a number of the most common types of permits, licenses, and approvals associated with water resources and habitat that would generally be required for the Management Program components presented in this document. These permits, licenses, and approvals are listed below by the jurisdictional agency:

Federal Permits, Licenses, and Approvals

Section 404 permit – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Section 10 permit – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Endangered Species Act consultation – NOAA Fisheries
Endangered Species Act consultation – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

State Permits, Licenses, and Approvals

Water use permit/certificate of water right – Department of Ecology
Reservoir permit/aquifer storage and recovery – Department of Ecology
Dam safety permit – Department of Ecology
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit(s) – Department of Ecology
Section 401 water quality certification – Department of Ecology
Shoreline conditional use permit, or variance – Department of Ecology
Water system plan approval – Department of Health
Hydraulic project approval – Department of Fish and Wildlife
Forest practices approval – Department of Natural Resources

Local Permits, Licenses, and Approvals

Critical areas permit or approval – Appropriate local jurisdictional agency
Floodplain development permit – Appropriate local jurisdictional agency
Shoreline substantial development permit, conditional use permit, or variance –
Appropriate local jurisdictional agency
Building permit – Appropriate local jurisdictional agency
Clearing and grading permit – Appropriate local jurisdictional agency

Authors and Contributors to the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement:

The following **Department of Ecology** individuals were reviewers or contributors to the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement:

Derek Sandison – All chapters
Bob Barwin – All chapters
Dan Haller- All chapters

The following **contract** individuals were contributors to the Environmental Impact Statement:

ESA Adolfson – Consultant EIS Manager; Air and Climate, Wildlife and Plants, Land and Shoreline Use, Transportation, Recreation and Scenic Resources, Public Utilities
Anchor Environmental – Surface Water, Water Rights, Public Utilities
Golder Associates – Earth, Water Quality, Ground Water, Water Rights
Perkins Coie, LLP – Water Rights
R2 Resource Consultants – Fish and Wildlife
EcoNorthwest – Socioeconomics
Paragon Research Associates – Cultural Resources

Timing of Additional Environmental Review:

This Programmatic EIS has been prepared to generally address probable significant adverse impacts associated with implementation of components of the Columbia River Water Management Program. This EIS is being prepared in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and discusses actions subject to SEPA review. Individual projects associated with the Management Program will require additional environmental review when they are proposed; these projects may require SEPA compliance, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, or both, depending upon the implementing agency, source of funding, and/or types of permits required. Projects will be evaluated as they are developed and ready for environmental review. This could occur within the next few years for some of the early action items, or as long as several years in the future for other projects.

Public Comment Period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

In accordance with WAC 197-11-455, Ecology conducted a public comment period from October 5 to November 20, 2006. Ecology received written comments from a total of 75 persons

or agencies. In addition, five people submitted oral comments at the Moses Lake public workshop. No oral comments were submitted at the other public workshops. The comments and Ecology's responses to those comments are published in Volume II of the Final EIS.

Date of Issuance of Final EIS:

February 15, 2007

Document Availability:

The Final EIS can be viewed on-line at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/eis.html>. The Final EIS can be obtained in hard copy or CD by written request to the SEPA Responsible Official listed above, or by calling 509-454-7679. Persons with disabilities may request this information be prepared and supplied in alternative formats.

Location of Background Materials:

The following documents were used as background materials for the preparation of this Final EIS. They are available on-line at the following links.

Final Environmental Impact Statement for Watershed Planning under Chapter 90.82 RCW. Washington State Department of Ecology. Ecology Publication #03-06-013. July 18, 2003. Available on-line at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0306013.pdf>

Columbia River Mainstem Storage Options, Off-Channel Storage Assessment Pre-Appraisal Report. Prepared for the Washington Department of Ecology and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation by MWH. December 2005. Available on-line at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/images/pdf/cssr_final_12062005.pdf

Odessa Subarea Special Study, Columbia Basin Project, Plan of Study. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. February 2006. Available on-line at: http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/planofstudy.pdf

Initial Alternative Development and Evaluation. Odessa Subarea Special Study. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. September 2006. Available on-line at: http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/report-alternatives.pdf

Managing the Columbia River: Instream Flows, Water Withdrawals, and Salmon Survival. A Report of the National Research Council of the National Academies. The National Academies Press. Washington, D.C. 2004. Available on-line at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cri/Images/PDF/navscrivrpt.pdf>

Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Columbia River Mainstem Water Management Program. Washington State Department of Ecology and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. December 2004. Available on-line at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/images/pdf/0411028.pdf>

Changes to the Draft EIS:

For this Final EIS, the Draft EIS has been amended to reflect responses to comments, additional information on the Management Program and early actions, and to more clearly describe the proposal and impacts. Comments received on the Draft EIS are included in Volume II along with responses to those comments.

The major changes to the Draft EIS include:

- Figure 2-4 has been revised to more clearly indicate the proposed Supplemental Feed Routes.
- Figures 3-20 and 3-21 have been added to illustrate wildlife-related recreation areas.
- Tables S-1 and S-2 have been added to clarify the future environmental review on projects proposed under the Management Program and on early actions.
- Chapter 2 has been revised to provide additional detail about the project components.
- Section 2.1.2.5 has been revised to describe the Long-Term Water Supply and Demand Forecast that was completed following issuance of the Draft EIS.
- Section 2.1.2.6 has been added to describe the water information system.
- Section 2.2 has been revised to include changes to the Policy Alternatives.
- Section 2.3 has been added to describe Ecology's preferred alternatives for the Policy Alternatives.
- Section 3.1.3 has been added to describe the multi-jurisdictional management of the Columbia River.
- Additional information on Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area has been added to Section 3.9.4.1.
- The role of the Spokane Tribe in the Management Program has been clarified throughout the document.
- The discussion of plants and terrestrial wildlife has been expanded in Section 3.7 and Section 4.1.1.6. A new Appendix I has been included with lists of plants and wildlife located in the project area.
- Additional economic studies have been summarized in Sections 3.8 and 4.1.1.7.
- Discussions of the affected environment and impacts have been revised throughout to reflect new information and comments on the Draft EIS.
- Chapter 6, Policy Alternatives, has been revised with additional discussion of the Policy Alternatives and preferred alternatives. New figures have been added.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIP	Agreement in Principal
ASR	aquifer storage and recovery
BMPs	best management practices
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CBA	cost/benefit analysis
CBP	Columbia Basin Project
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CRI	Columbia River Initiative
CRMP	Cultural Resources Management Plan
CSRIA	Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association
DAHP	Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DOH	Department of Health
DPS	distinct population segment
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ET	evapotranspiration
FCRPS	Federal Columbia River Power System
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
HPA	hydraulic project approval
IJC	International Joint Commission
KID	Kennewick Irrigation District
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NRC	National Resources Council
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
OCPI	overriding considerations of the public interest
OHWM	ordinary high water mark
PHS	Priority Habitats and Species
PIA	practically irrigable acreage
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
RID	Roza Irrigation District
Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
SBEIS	Small Business Economic Impact Statement
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
SVID	Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District
TCP's	traditional cultural properties
TMDL	total maximum daily load
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VRA	Voluntary Regional Agreement
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WRIA	Water Resource Inventory Area