



Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases Program



August 29, 2008
Washington State Department of Ecology
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Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement For The Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Release Project

This report is available on the Department of Ecology Web
site at:

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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August 29, 2008

Dear interested parties:

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has prepared and issued this Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Chapter 43.21C RCW) and the SEPA Rules (Chapter 197-11 WAC). This Final Supplemental EIS evaluates impacts associated with the Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases Project. The project is proposed as a component of the Columbia River Water Management Program and is intended to improve municipal and industrial water supply, provide water to replace some ground water use in the Odessa Subarea, enhance stream flows in the Columbia River to benefit fish, and provide water to interruptible water right holders in drought years.

The Draft Supplemental EIS was issued May 15, 2008. The public comment period was open until June 30, 2008. Open houses were held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on June 16 in Coulee Dam and June 17 in Colville. Additional comments were received via email and mail. The comments received are included in Chapter 5 of the Final Supplemental 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 Supplemental EIS evaluated the impacts of several alternatives for the timing and allocation of flows released for each purpose. Based on further analysis and comments received, Ecology has selected Preferred Alternatives that would use an adaptive management approach to schedule the flow releases. A panel of fisheries and water experts would determine the amount and timing of the flows each year based on runoff predictions for the Columbia River. The flow releases would be timed to provide maximum benefits to fish. The Preferred Alternatives are described and further evaluated in this Final Supplemental EIS.

We believe this Final Supplemental EIS will provide Ecology decision makers with insight into key environmental factors associated with implementation actions related to the Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases Project. Such implementation actions include Ecology's decision on the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) application for secondary water right permits to use water stored in Lake Roosevelt. Reclamation will evaluate the steps necessary for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when it issues service contracts for use of the water. Ecology will evaluate applications for water rights issued to use the water released from Lake Roosevelt under the authority of Chapter 90.03 RCW.

Sincerely,

Derek I. Sandison
Central Regional Director
SEPA Responsible Official



FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LAKE ROOSEVELT INCREMENTAL STORAGE RELEASES PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

Brief Description of Proposal:

The Washington State Legislature authorized the Columbia River Water Management Program (Management Program) in 2006 through passage of the Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESSHB) 2860, codified as Chapter 90.90 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The Management Program recognized that a key priority of water resource management in the Columbia River Basin is the development of new water supplies, including storage and conservation in order to meet the economic and community development needs of people, and the instream flow needs of fish. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has identified a number of strategies for implementing the Management Program. In 2007, Ecology evaluated the Management Program in a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The Programmatic EIS evaluated several early implementation actions, including the Lake Roosevelt Drawdown (now known as the Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases Project). Since the Programmatic EIS was released in 2007, additional information has become available, allowing a more detailed evaluation of the incremental flow release options in this Supplemental EIS. The Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases Project is being developed in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The action subject to SEPA review by Ecology is the issuance of two secondary use permits for water stored in Lake Roosevelt under Reclamation's 1938 storage right.

The Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Release Project (the Proposal) involves withdrawing additional water from Lake Roosevelt to provide drought relief, improve municipal and industrial supply, alternatives to ground water use in the Odessa Subarea, and streamflow enhancement for fish downstream of Grand Coulee Dam. The Proposal includes releases that would occur annually and releases that would occur only during drought years. Annually, 82,500 acre-feet will be released from storage, resulting in approximately a 1-foot additional drawdown of the lake at the end of August. In drought years, Reclamation would release 50,000 acre-feet, in addition to the 82,500 acre-feet released for storage. In drought years, this would result in a total of 132,500 acre-feet and an estimated additional drawdown of approximately 1.8 feet at the end of August. The 2007 Programmatic EIS assumed that all incremental releases would occur in July and August. This Supplemental EIS evaluates several options for timing of the storage releases. Ecology has selected Preferred Alternatives for annual and drought year releases in which the exact schedule for the flow releases would be developed annually by a panel of water and fisheries managers to maximize benefits for fish. The Preferred Alternatives are variations of Alternatives 1C and 1E that were evaluated in the Draft Supplemental EIS.

Proposed or Tentative Date for Implementation:

Ecology anticipates making decisions regarding Reclamation's secondary water user permits in early September.

Proponent:

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

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Permits, Licenses, and Approvals Required for Proposal:

The Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases Project requires Ecology to issue secondary use permits for water stored in Lake Roosevelt under Reclamation's 1938 storage right. Ecology will also issue new water rights to municipal and industrial users who receive water from the storage releases. Ecology will also issue stand-by reserve permits for holders of interruptible water rights who receive water from the storage releases. Reclamation will issue service contracts to the Columbia Basin Irrigation District to supply irrigators in the Odessa Subarea. Ecology will issue a superseding certificate or permit to Odessa Subarea water users who exchange ground water use for surface water.

Water for the Odessa Subarea will be routed to the area using existing canals and other irrigation infrastructure. Some alteration of existing infrastructure and new canals may be required to connect to individual farms and individual irrigators may construct new canals or other infrastructure on their land. Construction of the Weber Siphons may require an NPDES stormwater permit. The new construction may be subject review under SEPA or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) depending on the source of funding. Individuals must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals for the new infrastructure.

Authors and Contributors to the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

The following **Department of Ecology** individuals were reviewers or contributors to the preparation of the Supplemental EIS:

Derek Sandison – All chapters
Bob Barwin – All chapters
Dan Haller – All chapters
Joanne Wellner – All chapters
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Ken Merrill – Water Quality

Teresa Scott of the **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** reviewed the sections on fish, plants and wildlife.

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Cascadia Law Group – Legal Considerations
EcoNorthwest - Socioeconomics
Golder and Associates – Earth, Groundwater, Water Quality
Paragon Research Associates – Cultural Resources
R2 Resource Consultants – Fish

Timing of Additional Environmental Review:

No additional environmental review is required for the Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases Project. Reclamation will determine the necessary steps for NEPA compliance when it issues service contracts. As noted above, construction may be required for some infrastructure in the Odessa Subarea. Appropriate environmental review will be conducted on those projects prior to construction. Appropriate review will also be conducted on new municipal and industrial water rights and supplemental drought permit issuance, as applicable.

Date of Issue of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

May 15, 2008

Public Comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS

In accordance with WAC 197-11-455, Ecology conducted a public comment period from May 15, 2008 to June 30, 2008. Ecology received written comments from a total of 39 persons or agencies. Ecology conducted public open houses at Coulee Dam and Colville on June 16 and June 17, respectively. No one provided oral comments at those open houses.

Document Availability

Both the Final Supplemental EIS and the Programmatic EIS on the Columbia River Water Management Program are available for review. The Final Supplemental EIS is available on line and can be viewed at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/cr_lkroos.html. The Programmatic EIS on the Columbia River Water Management Program is available on line at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/eis.html>.

Both documents can be obtained in hard copy or CD by written request to the SEPA Responsible Official listed above, or by calling 509-454-7664. Persons with disabilities may request this information be prepared and supplied in alternative formats.

Both documents were distributed through the state library system. Copies are also available for review at any Department of Ecology Yakima office located at 15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Changes to the Draft EIS

For this Final EIS, the Draft EIS has been amended to reflect responses to comments, additional information on the Incremental Storage Releases Project, and to more clearly describe the proposal and impacts. Comments received on the Draft EIS are included in Chapter 5 along with responses to those comments.

Major changes to the Draft EIS include:

- Descriptions of the selected Preferred Alternatives for annual and drought year releases and the allocation of water to municipal and industrial users and holders of interruptible water rights were added to Chapter 2.
- Information from the National Park Service (NPS) on impacts to specific recreational facilities on Lake Roosevelt and measures for mitigating those impacts was added to Chapter 4 and the NPS report was included as Appendix G.
- The discussion of Inchelium-Gifford ferry in Chapter 4 was revised to clarify that the Proposal is not expected to impact ferry operations.
- Information on proposed construction of the Weber Siphons was added to Chapter 2 and to the impacts discussion in Chapter 4.
- The description of the Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association's Voluntary Regional Agreement (VRA) was revised to reflect the signing of the VRA in July.
- The tables of flow releases in Chapter 2 were revised to reflect the scheduled releases under the Preferred Alternatives and new information on the amount of water that could be released. The figures that illustrated those releases in the Draft Supplemental EIS were removed.
- The tables of drawdowns in Chapter 4 were revised to reflect new information on water releases.

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MAP FOLIO

Lake Roosevelt Embayments

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIP	Agreement in Principle
BMPs	best management practices
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
C	Celsius
CBA	cost/benefit analysis
CBFWP	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program
CBP	Columbia Basin Project
CCT	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
CELP	Center for Environmental Law and Policy
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
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
CSTAG	Sediments Technical Advisory Group
CY	cubic yards
DAHP	Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
DDE	Department of Energy
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DOH	Department of Health
DPS	distinct population segment
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECID	East Columbia Irrigation District
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ET	evapotranspiration
F	Fahrenheit
FCRPS	Federal Columbia River Power System
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FSCA	Fish Sample Collection Areas
gpm	gallons per minute
HPA	hydraulic project approval
IJC	International Joint Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KAF	thousand acre-feet
LRFEP	Lake Roosevelt Fisheries Evaluation Program
LRHCT	Lake Roosevelt Hatchery Coordination Team
LRNRA	Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area
MDNS	Mitigated determination of non-significance
mg/L	milligrams per liter
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
msl	mean sea level
MW	Megawatts

MW-hrs	Megawatt-hours
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	National Park Service
NRC	National Resource Council
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NTU	nephelometric turbidity units
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
OCPI	overriding considerations of the public interest
OHWM	ordinary high water mark
PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PCOI	Preliminary Contaminants of Interest
PECs	Probable Effects Concentrations
PHS	Priority Habitats and Species
ppm	parts per million
PUD	Public Utility District
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study
RPA	Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
STI	Spokane Tribe of Indians
SWE	Snow Water Equivalent
TCPs	traditional cultural properties
TDG	total dissolved gas
TDS	total dissolved solids
TECs	Threshold Effects Concentrations
TEL	Threshold Effects Level
TEQ	toxicity equivalent
TMDL	total maximum daily load
TMT	Technical Management Team
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
WSF	Washington State Ferries
WSPRC	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission