



CLEAN, FLOWING WATERS FOR WASHINGTON

The Center for
Environmental Law & Policy

Conservation Alternative for Icicle Work Group Process Prepared for IWG Outreach Meeting, Seattle, Feb. 17, 2015

The Icicle Work Group (sponsored by Chelan County and Department of Ecology) is evaluating various projects to meet existing and future demand for water for both instream and out-of-stream uses in the Icicle Creek and Wenatchee Valley region. CELP recommends focusing on the following sustainable approaches to meet IWG goals. For more information, contact Rachael Osborn at rdpaschal@earthlink.net or 509-954-5641.

1. Water Conservation Measures

All institutional water users, including the cities of Leavenworth, Peshastin, Dryden, and Cashmere, the Cascade Orchards Irrigation District, Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation Districts, and Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery should pursue aggressive conservation and efficiency measures to manage water demand and utilize conservation savings for future needs. The Icicle Work Group should re-evaluate water demand projections to integrate aggressive conservation measures. The IWG has published a "Draft Memorandum re Icicle Creek Conservation Survey" (Aspect, Nov. 20, 2014), a good start but much greater detail is needed to evaluate demand management and supply options.

2. Water Markets & Banks

Chelan County should establish water banks and other institutions to promote water markets that allow for acquisition of existing, valid water rights to serve out-of-stream and instream demand. An evaluation is needed of the fate of water supply for properties that convert from agricultural production to less water-intensive uses to determine water availability for future demand.

3. Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation Districts Change in Point of Diversion

IPID should move its point of diversion from Icicle Creek to a point downstream on the Wenatchee River. The "Icicle Irrigation District Instream Flow Improvement Options Analysis Study" (p. 11) (Forsgren/Trout Unlimited, July 2014) evaluates this alternative as Option 6C. Such a change could make more than 100 cfs of flow available to Icicle Creek (and should be established as a trust water right), but would convert IPID from a gravity flow system to an electrical pump system. To address this increase in energy demand, Icicle Work Group should evaluate the potential for installation of a renewable energy system (wind turbine, solar array) to facilitate the change.

4. Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery

LNFH should install "recirculating aquaculture systems" fish tanks, which are increasingly recognized as state of the art technology for fish hatcheries, to facilitate improved water quality, increase water use efficiency, reduce labor costs, and potentially improve production.

5. Yakama Nation & Colville Confederated Tribes Fishing Rights

Any impacts resulting from changes at LNFH should be evaluated and adjusted to ensure no impact to and potential for enhancement of tribal fishing rights.