



November 6, 2012

Rachael Osborn, Staff Attorney
Center for Environmental Law and Policy
25 West Main #234
Spokane, WA 99201

Re: Icicle Creek Work Group Invitation to Participate

Dear Ms. Osborn:

On December 4 and 5, 2012, the Department of Ecology Office of Columbia River (OCR) and Chelan County Natural Resources Department (County) are convening a work group to identify opportunities for improving the health of the Icicle Creek Basin for both instream and out-of-stream needs. Both OCR and the County believe that there are opportunities for collaboration on Icicle Creek water resource issues that would address longstanding conflict in the basin as well as provide a solid foundation for the next generation of water resource solutions across the Wenatchee watershed. Invitations to participate are being sent to representatives of State, Federal, Tribal, and local governments, environmental organizations, and irrigation districts.

The goal of the facilitated Icicle Creek work group session is to seek input and concurrence on a number of ongoing and potential efforts and projects that would address Icicle Creek water resource and fisheries concerns. The County, operating under a grant from OCR to develop a forum to address issues in the Icicle Basin, has developed a resource library of studies, past-and-present, in the basin, and has identified a preliminary set of issues of concern in the basin with a list of projects that have been or are being considered that could address those concerns. OCR, charged with using the Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development Account to address instream and out-of-stream needs within the Columbia River basin, is in a position to request capital funding for a comprehensive Icicle Creek Water Resource Strategy that would lead to implementation of high-priority water resource projects.

OCR and the County hope that your organization can participate in the Icicle Creek work group session. It is our intention to integrate, with your help, the list of possible projects and efforts identified through this effort into a broader Wenatchee Watershed integrated vision. OCR and the County will be leading a coordinated effort next year to launch the next phase of Wenatchee watershed planning with an aim towards development of a project list to meet instream and out-of-stream needs across the Wenatchee River basin. We anticipate the project list would be built in part from the Wenatchee Watershed Plan Detailed Implementation Plan approved in 2008 as well as other efforts in the watershed.

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To be effective, the initial Icicle work group session will be facilitated and manageable in size with approximately fifteen participants. Regarding your organization's potential participation, we ask you to select an individual who is:

- Recognized as a spokesperson for your organization/constituency.
- Sufficiently well-versed in the process and issues to articulate your organization's perspectives, needs, and preferences.
- Able to attend the initial meeting, and follow-up meetings in 2013 as appropriate.
- Able to work collaboratively—willing and able to see/consider multiple points of view.

A meeting schedule and description of the purpose, content, and expected products of the meeting will be prepared and forwarded to you and your designated representative following your decision to participate.

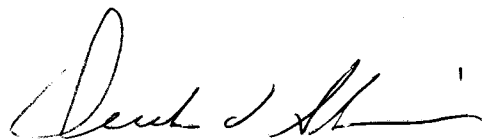
We look forward to working with your organization through this process. If, however, you do not wish to participate, believe that your interests will be adequately represented by another listed organization, or wish to nominate another organization to represent your interests, please let us know.

Please notify Ms. Mary Jo Sanborn by email at MaryJo.Sanborn@co.chelan.wa.us or by phone at (509) 667-6532 of your intent to be involved in this process or the name and contact information of your designee.

Sincerely,



Keith Goehner, Commissioner
Chelan County Board of Commissioners



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