



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Pacific Northwest Region
Columbia-Cascades Area Office
1917 Marsh Road
Yakima, WA 98901-2058

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PN-1776
2.2.3.19

OCT 02 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Subject: Snow Lake Water Control Structure Draft Environmental Assessment

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have released for your review and comment a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a water discharge control valve replacement project at Upper Snow Lake in Chelan County, Washington. The water control structure is on land owned by USFWS surrounded by the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. The proposed project would remove and replace the existing Upper Snow Lake tunnel water discharge control valve. The existing control valve has exceeded its expected 10 year service life and it cannot meet the 80 cubic feet per second (cfs) discharge capacity desired by the Icicle and Peshastin Irrigation Districts and Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery. This project would replace the outdated valve and install a new one that could meet the 80 cfs discharge capacity in order to provide cool, high quality water for fish in late summer.

Reclamation and USFWS are serving as co-lead agencies for this Draft EA under the National Environmental Policy Act. The Draft EA describes the proposed action and analyzes environmental consequences from the removal and replacement of the existing valve, including the means to transport materials, equipment, supplies and contract personnel to the remote location. Two actions are addressed in the Draft EA – a proposed action (with two alternatives) and no action. The proposed action is the removal and replacement of the water discharge control valve using helicopter support. Alternative 1 of the proposed action would authorize up to 30 helicopter flights and alternative 2 would authorize up to 15 helicopter flights.

Comments will be used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and the other public interest factors. Any comments received will be considered by Reclamation and the USFWS to determine potential alternatives and whether or not to carry out the proposed action. Comments will be used in the preparation of a final environmental assessment.

The Draft EA is available on the internet at Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Regional Office web page (<https://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ea/wash/snowlake/index.html>), or a paper copy can be received by contacting Mr. Stephen Kolk at 509-667-8494. Please send your written comments on the Draft EA to: Mr. Stephen Kolk, Wenatchee Sub-Basin Liaison, Bureau of Reclamation, 301 Yakima Street, Room 319, Wenatchee, Washington 98801-2966, or via email to BOR-PNR-SnowLakeEA@usbr.gov. Comments must be received by October 11, 2017.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have any questions concerning this document or the National Environmental Policy Act, please contact Mr. Stephen Kolk at 509-667-8494.

Sincerely,



FW

Dawn A. Wiedmeier
Columbia-Cascades Area Manager