

Lake Chelan Coordinated Cost-Reimbursement

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Lake Chelan Reserve

- Chelan PUD reservoir right
 - 1925 water right and a 1992 agreement with Ecology
 - Store and use entire flow of Chelan River for hydropower generation except for a 65,000 afy reservation
- Lake Chelan Reserve 65,000 afy
 - Existing and future domestic and irrigation uses



Reservation Accounting

Last Updated October 2017

65,000	afy	Lake Chelan Reserve
-54,151	afy	Existing water rights allocated
-200	afy	Existing permit-exempt uses
<u>-5,500</u>	afy	<u>Existing claims</u>
5,149	afy	Reservation Balance



Cost-Reimbursement

- Contract between applicant/Ecology
 - Applicant assumes the full cost of processing their water right application
- Consultant does the work Ecology hydrogeologists and permit writers would ordinarily do
 - Free-up Ecology staff time for work that takes priority
 - Results in a quicker decision
- Consultant:
 - site investigation
 - environmental and hydrogeologic analyses
 - determines water availability
 - Potential impairment of other water users
- Ecology makes the final decision



Coordinated Cost-Reimbursement

- Batch-processing of water right applications by a state-approved contractor
- Voluntary program
 - Costs shared by the applicants – keeps costs down
 - No guarantee of future water availability
- Applications are processed in the order they were received
- Cost estimates range from \$5,000 - \$15,000 per application depending on complexity and water quantity requested
 - Costs include all processing costs: Ecology review time, contract management and consultant services



Estimated Timeline

Dec 18, 2017

- Initial letters to gauge interest of applicants in the Program
- Coordinated cost-reimbursement and Lake Chelan Reserve outreach

Spring 2018

- Statement of Intent – applicants submit their intent on participating in the Program
- Public Notice
- Notification of other applicants (change applications)

Summer 2018

- Consultant selection and contract
- Formal contracts with applicants



Is There Enough Water?

- Will the amount remaining in the reservation be enough to satisfy all applications?
- What happens when the reserve runs out of water?



Resources

- Lake Chelan CCR Ecology webpage launch: January 2018
- Ecology Focus on Lake Chelan Reserve:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1711009.pdf>
- Cost-reimbursement FAQ:
<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Water-rights/Cost-reimbursement>
- Water Resource Explorer:
<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Water-Resources-Explorer>



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