

Lake Chelan Collaborative Meeting Summary

MARCH 11, 2026, 1-4 PM
CHELAN FIRE STATION, 232 E WAPATO AVENUE + CALL-IN OPTION

County's website will host meeting materials/meeting information:

<https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/watershed-plan-lake-chelan>

Attendees:

In person: Mike Kaputa (CCNRD); Elle Robinson (CCNRD); Stephen Lesky (CCNRD); Gretchen Muller (Cascadia); Nate Hough-Snee (Meadow Run); Brian Patterson (Chelan Basin Conservancy); Richard Uhlhorn (All Things Lake Chelan); Phil Long (LCRI); Anna Galipeau (LCRI); John Olson (Resident); Patrick Sawyer (CCT); Bret Gardner (Rock Well Water Systems and Pumps); Robin Pittman (Manson Parks and Recreation)

Online attendance: Kelsey Mach (Aspect); Dan Haller (Aspect); Gina Hoff (USBR); Amber Brooks (WDFW); Brad Hawkins (BOCC); David Bowen (DOE); Justin Bush (WDFW); Ginger Wireman (DOE); Holly Krake (USFS); Lisa Dowling (WDFW); Lloyd Stevens (DOE); Nate Schmidt (WDFW); Nic (Unknown); Sarah Peck (CPUD); Alene Underwood (Chelan PUD); Lucas Lachica (Cascadia CD); Steve Nelson (RH2); Scott McFarland (DNR); Brian Gatson (WDFW); Clay Patmont (Anchor QEA)

Action Items:

- Provide any additional feedback on outreach plan and watershed plan outline to Kelsey (kelsey.mach@aspectconsulting.com) by March 20, 2026.
- Provide requests for June meeting topics to Kelsey and Gretchen (gretchen@cascadiaconsulting.com) by April 1, 2026.

Decisions Made: NA

Upcoming Dates:

Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Time: 1-4 PM

Location: Chelan Fire Station + Call-In Option

Community Event #1 – May, TBD

Agenda Items:

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Subcommittee Meeting Recap

Nate Hough-Snee (Meadow Run Environmental) provided a summary of the first two AIS Subcommittee Meetings and the deliverables from the group which include the Lake Chelan AIS Management Plan and AIS Watercraft Inspection Program Plan which will be included as exhibits to the Lake Chelan Watershed Restoration Plan.

Issues Prioritization and LCC Workplan

Gretchen provided a reminder of the current issues list and prioritization, and how that list informs the LCC's workplan and future meeting topics. There was group discussion around the issue list and plan for addressing forestry management/wildfire, traditional uses of Lake Chelan, recreation, agriculture and FERC licensing issues.

Forestry Management - the group suggested reaching out to Paul Hessburg for more research focused presentations, or Holy Krake and Scott McFarland for more boots-on-the-ground presentations. Holly mentioned a 5-year workplan that USFS is operating under that could be a topic for a presentation. The group mentioned there was interest in understanding the status of forest health and wildfire management in Lake Chelan, and what is being done related to land stewardship. WDFW also may be able to speak to land management related.

Wildfire - David W Petersen, David L Petersen at USFS would be good to speak to this.

Traditional uses of Lake Chelan - the group mentioned including presenters from Chelan Museum. Patrick Sawyer from CCT mentioned there are people from CCT that would be willing to give a presentation. Phil mentioned wanting to hear historic perspective of fisheries on the Lake. Darnell Sam (nxa?amxcin Traditional Territories Coordinator) provided an overview of his role and mentioned that there is tribal owned land within Lake Chelan basin.

Recreation - the group mentioned City of Chelan or Chelan Parks. Paul Horne from Parks could give an update on the long-term plan. Audrey Cooper, Parks Director with City of Chelan could give a presentation as well. The group mentioned there is a lot of interest in federal docks and that there are plans in progress related to the 11 federal docks up lake to fix them. There is also interest in this from fishing guides/the Lake Chelan Sailing Association. USFS mentioned that there is a federal contract awarded to rebuild the Safety Harbor dock. Phil mentioned interest in understanding wave damage from wake boats. A nexus with the PUD and USFS was mentioned related to erosion control.

Agriculture - there was discussion around agricultural voluntary guidance program, or the voluntary stewardship program.

There was discussion around how the issue list is multidimensional and many of the issues are tied together and interrelated and require an element of sequencing. There was also a mention of the list missing an overlay of climate change impacts.

Watershed Plan Outline

Kelsey presented on the draft outline of the Lake Chelan Watershed Restoration Plan. There was general consensus on the idea of having a larger implementation matrix. It was mentioned to add a section that focuses on projects aligning specifically with WaterSMART funding opportunities and that Gina at USBR could support that, as well as a summary of the previous plan and what has been completed including the CCNRD/LCRI Monitoring Program. There was also a request that ongoing efforts be included in the implementation plan where the group wants to recommend continuing them. For the implementation plan, it was suggested to include information on "readiness to proceed". Holly Krake at USFS suggested making sure to differentiate the request for comment on this plan from the formal federal commenting process.

Fish Habitat Restoration

Kelsey gave an introduction to this topic, summarizing the existing plans that relate to fisheries management in Lake Chelan and asking for group discussion around what specifically related to fisheries/fish habitat restoration they are interested in learning about and addressing the watershed restoration plan. Mike Kaputa suggested it would be helpful to hear an update on the 2007 Lake Chelan Fishery Plan from the PUD/WDFW. There was also mention of including the Rocky Reach Forum in that presentation as a potential funding source.

There was discussion amongst the group on how there is not a legal nexus for fish habitat projects in Lake Chelan due to the lack of anadromy in the fish. Nate at WDFW mentioned that he wasn't able to find an HPA for a fish habitat project within the last 15 years, but that WDFW has an MOU with USFS that bypasses the HPA requirement so there could be projects that are not documented. There is a limit to the feasibility of habitat projects due to access. Sarah at the PUD mentioned they could speak to the Chelan River restoration presentation. It was suggested that Ashley Rawhouser Aquatic Ecologist for NPS, would be a good local expert for speaking. Holly with USFS mentioned there were ongoing updates related to Holden Mine that she could share.

There was a discussion around mitigation associated with shoreline development/docks. Nate at WDFW mentioned he specializes in permitting overwater structures on the lake and could speak to that as well as the in-lieu fee program mentioned by Mike Kaputa.

Mike also mentioned the 25-mile creek fish habitat channel project, and replacement of the concrete structure under the road which is a partial fish passage barrier and being funded by WDFW.

Communication and Outreach Plan Approach

Kelsey presented on the draft communication and outreach plan. Phil from LCRI mentioned having a presentation for a Ruby University event. There was a suggestion to add questions to the survey to establish baseline awareness of issues of concern. There was a discussion of developing an LCC-specific website and linking the website to other existing websites to get more traffic including the LCRI site. Additional distribution points were discussed including the Chelan Basin Conservancy, Manson and Chelan Libraries, the Chelan Community Center, the Chelan County Commissioners bi-weekly interviews on KOZI, notices at the boat launches/state park, flyers on the ferry, City of Chelan Website, LCRI email list, booth at Earth Day event, and Rod Anderson Lake Chelan Reclamation District list serv.

Wrap Up & Timely Topics

Elle from CCNRD gave an update on the status of the Roses Lake Cyanobacteria Management Plan. Anna and Phil at LCRI mentioned the upcoming Restore the Shore event and also presented on the recent discovery of fresh water sponges in Lake Chelan.