# S E P A

SEPA is the abbreviation or acronym for the State Environmental Policy Act, Chapter 43.21C RCW. Enacted in 1971, it provides the framework for agencies to consider the environmental consequences of a proposal before taking action. It also gives agencies the ability to condition or deny a proposal due to identified likely significant adverse impacts. The Act is implemented through the SEPA Rules, Chapter 197-11 WAC.

## When is SEPA environmental review required?

Environmental review is required for any proposal which involves a government "action," as defined in the SEPA Rules (WAC 197-11-704), and is not categorically exempt (WAC 197-11-800 through 890). Non-project actions involve decisions on policies, plans, or programs, such as the adoption of a comprehensive plan or development regulations, or a transportation plan.

## Who is responsible for doing SEPA environmental review?

Usually, one agency is identified as the "lead agency" under the SEPA Rules WAC 197-11-924 to 938, and is responsible for conducting the environmental review for a proposal and documenting that review in the appropriate SEPA documents (DNS, DS/EIS, adoption, addendum). Two or more agencies may share lead agency status by agreement, but a single environmental analysis would be conducted and all SEPA documentation is issued jointly. For the Icicle Strategy, Chelan County and the Department of Ecology are share lead agency status.

## What is NEPA?

NEPA is an acronym for the National Environmental Policy Act. NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions.

### What is the difference between NEPA and SEPA?

NEPA is required for action proposed at the federal government level, while SEPA is required for action at the state and local government level. However, both SEPA and NEPA seek to identify and consider environmental impacts prior.

### Will NEPA be required for any projects proposed under the Icicle Strategy?

Yes. All proposed projects that will require federal action, such as funding or permits, will require NEPA review. All NEPA requirements will be identified during the development of the Programmatic EIS completed under SEPA.
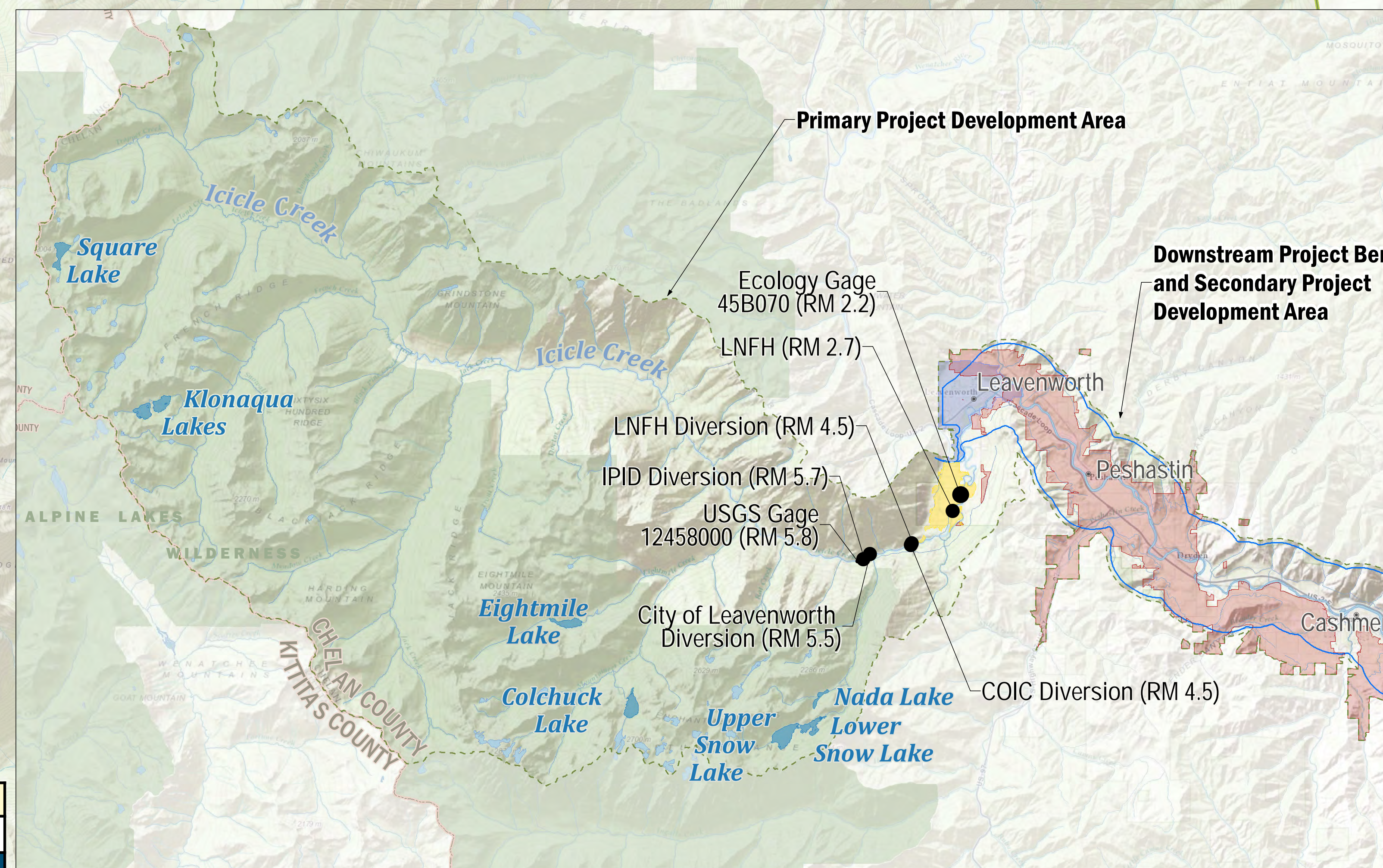The following table identifies some federal actions in addition to funding that could trigger NEPA.

| PROJECTS | OWNERSHIP | OPERATIONS | PERMITTING |
|---|---|---|---|
| Conservation | | | |
| Expand Groundwater Supplies at LNFH | Bureau of Reclamation | US Fish & Wildlife | US Fish & Wildlife |
| Reuse Pilot Evaluation at LNFH | Bureau of Reclamation | US Fish & Wildlife | US Fish & Wildlife |
| IPID Pump Exchange | | | US Fish & Wildlife |
| LNFH Pump Exchange | Bureau of Reclamation | US Fish & Wildlife | US Fish & Wildlife |
| COIC Pump Exchange | | | US Fish & Wildlife |
| Alpine Lakes Optimization | Bureau of Reclamation | US Fish & Wildlife | US Fish & Wildlife |
| | | | US Forest Service |
| Eight-Mile Lake Restoration | | | US Fish & Wildlife |
| Eight-Mile - New Storage | | | US Fish & Wildlife |
| | | | US Forest Service |
| Klonaqua – New Storage | | | US Fish & Wildlife |
| | | | US Forest Service |
| Water Markets | | | |
| LNFH Structure 2 Modifications | Bureau of Reclamation | US Fish & Wildlife | US Fish & Wildlife |
| LNFH Structure 5 Modifications | Bureau of Reclamation | US Fish & Wildlife | US Fish & Wildlife |
| LNFH/COIC Intake/Fish Screen | Bureau of Reclamation | US Fish & Wildlife | US Fish & Wildlife |
| IPID Fish Screen | | | US Fish & Wildlife |
| Habitat Improvement | | | US Fish & Wildlife |
| Tribal Fishery Enhancement | | | US Fish & Wildlife |

## What is an EIS?

An environmental impact statement must be prepared when the lead agencies determine a proposal is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts. The EIS provides an impartial discussion of significant environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts. The lead agencies will issue a draft EIS with a 30-day comment period to allow other agencies, tribes, and the public an opportunity to comment

## What is "Scoping"?

If the lead agency issues a determination of significance, the first step in the process is to determine the "scope" of the EIS—those issues and alternatives that need to be evaluated. The scoping process allows the public and other agencies to comment on the scope of the EIS and assist the lead agency in identifying issues and concerns. The lead agency can either use a standard scoping notice with a written comment period, or they can use expanded scoping that might include public meetings, surveys, and other methods to involve the public in the scoping process.



**Potential Affected Environment for Icicle Strategy**

Primary Project Development Area
Downstream Project Bene and Secondary Project Development Area
Ecology Gage 45B070 (RM 2.2)
LNFH (RM 2.7)
LNFH Diversion (RM 4.5)
IPID Diversion (RM 5.7)
USGS Gage 12458000 (RM 5.8)
City of Leavenworth Diversion (RM 5.5)
COIC Diversion (RM 4.5)
Square Lake
Klonaqua Lakes
Eightmile Lake
Colchuck Lake
Upper Snow Lake
Nada Lake Lower Snow Lake
Leavenworth
Peshastin
Cashmere
Icicle Creek



**Icicle Creek Water Resource Management Plan Process Map**

Guiding Principles (GPs)
Integrated Package (IP) Meets all GPs
* You are here
Substitute new or modified projects to replace fatally-flawed projects
IP passes these tests: Programmatic environmental review Feasibility
Yes
IP passes project environmental review (if necessary)
Yes
Address phasing and project grouping to balance GPs
Funding And permitting
Yes
Design and construction
No
No
No

**Summary of Icicle Workgroup Decisionmaking Process**

## What is the Timeline for environmental review?

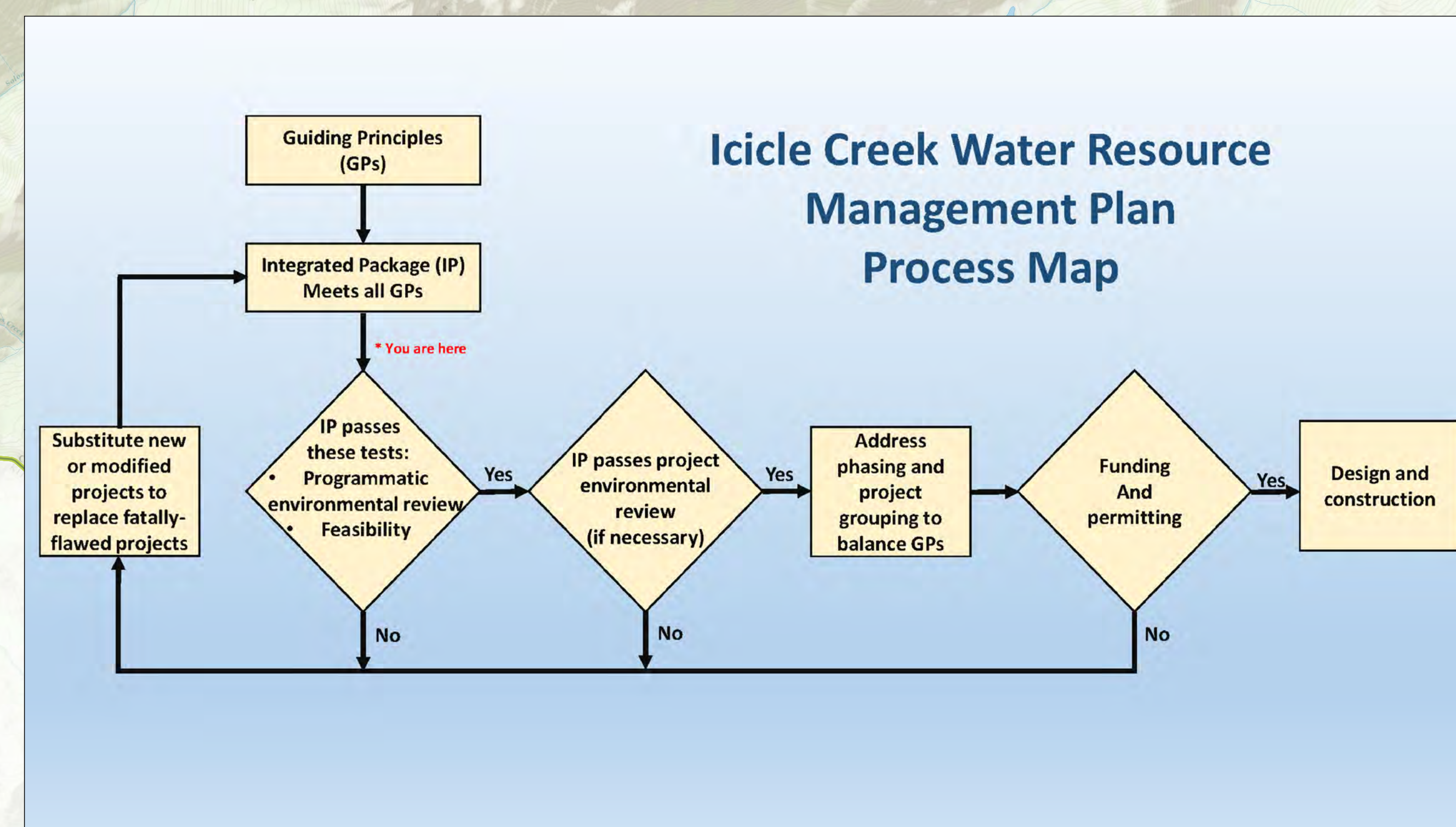| Stage | Date | Outcome |
|---|---|---|
| | Dec 2015 | Determined Lead Agencies |
| Programmatic Checklist Reviewed | Jan 2016 | |
| | Feb 2016 | Determination of Significance Issued |
| SEPA Scoping | Feb - May 2016 | |
| | May 2016 | Publish Summary of Scoping Comments. Identify key issues to address in Programmatic EIS |
| Identify and resolve data gaps and supplement environmental studies | May 2016 - April 2017 | |
| | May 2016 - July 2017 | Develop Programmatic EIS |
| Begin NEPA strategy and coordination | May 2017 | |
| | Aug 2017 | Circulate Draft EIS for Comment |
| Consider comments, develop Final EIS | Sept 2017 | |
| | Oct 2017 | Publish Final EIS |
| Begin Project Level Environmental Review | Nov 2017 | |

## How can I get Involved?

You can help shape the EIS by providing comments and feedback. Comments about the scope of the environmental review can be made here or sent to either lead agency:

Chelan County Natural Resources Department
Attention: Mike Kaputa, Director
411 Washington Street, Suite 201
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Mike.Kaputa@CO.CHELAN.WA.US

Department of Ecology Office of Columbia River
Attention: Thomas Tebb
1250 West Alder Street
Union Gap, WA 98903
thomas.tebb@ecy.wa.gov

To review the Icicle Strategy technical library please visit:
http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources