

# Icicle Creek Work Group

## Operating Procedures

February 2014

**Vision:** The Icicle Creek Work Group seeks to find collaborative solutions for water management within the Icicle Creek drainage to provide a suite of balanced benefits for existing and new domestic and agricultural uses, non-consumptive uses, fish, wildlife, and habitat while protecting treaty and non-treaty fishing interests.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Icicle Creek Work Group (“Work Group”) is to develop a comprehensive Icicle Creek Water Resource Management Strategy through a collaborative process that will achieve diverse benefits defined by all of the Guiding Principles below. The Work Group will use best available science to identify and support water management solutions that lead to implementation of high-priority water resource projects within the Icicle Creek drainage.

### Guiding Principles

1. Streamflow that:
  - a. Provides passage,
  - b. Provides healthy habitat,
  - c. Serves channel formation function,
  - d. Meets aesthetic and water quality objectives,
  - e. is resilient to climate change.
2. Sustainable hatchery that:
  - a. Provides healthy fish in adequate numbers,
  - b. Is resource efficient,
  - c. Significantly reduces phosphorus loading,
  - d. Has appropriately screened diversion(s),
  - e. Does not impede fish passage
3. Tribal Treaty and federally-protected fishing/harvest rights are met at all times.
4. Provide additional water to meet municipal and domestic demand.
5. Improved agricultural reliability that:
  - a. Is operational,

- b. Is flexible,
  - c. Decreases risk of drought impacts,
  - d. Is economically sustainable.
6. Improves ecosystem health including protection and enhancement of aquatic and terrestrial habitat.
  7. Comply with state and federal law.
  8. Protect Non-Treaty Harvest
  9. Comply with the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Act of 1976, and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Management Plan.

### **Specific Objectives:**

- Develop and adhere to a set of guiding principles that address the issues and concerns of the Work Group.
- Identify barriers and data gaps and address them as needed to achieve the guiding principles, address Icicle Creek stakeholder issues and concerns, and implement sustainable and collaborative solutions.
- Develop a comprehensive list of potential projects that address the issues and concerns identified by the Icicle Creek stakeholders.
- Narrow the comprehensive list described above to a Base Package of feasible projects that, at a minimum, will meet all of the guiding principles.
- Endorse other related projects that are consistent with the guiding principles.
- Review recommendations from the Steering Committee on funding recommendations and a financing strategy that identifies a wide range of potential funding opportunities and coordinates the use of these funds in a way that is effective and efficient. Make formal decisions after reviewing these Steering Committee recommendations.
- Seek funding to support IWG efforts and projects.
- Conduct public outreach on this effort, facilitate public review of potential outcomes and enlist the public's input and support through a coordinated effort.

### **Work Group Membership:**

- This Work Group was co-convened by the Department of Ecology Office of Columbia River and Chelan County Commission.
- The co-conveners invited organizations to participate that have a direct interest in management of water resources in Icicle Creek. Additional organizations or individuals may be added either through invitation or by request, following consensus decision of the Work

Group. Once added, new Work Group members will participate in decision-making as co-equal members and as described below.

- Organizations or individuals may request to be taken off the membership list or may be taken off upon consensus decision of the Work Group.
- Work Group membership is listed in Appendix A.

### **Decision Making:**

- All Work Group members have equal representation and equal participation.
- Decisions on key points and for the final project list/water resource management plan will be made by consensus. Consensus is defined as an outcome everyone in the Work Group can live with and support. If consensus cannot be met, objections must be clear and those objecting must help to offer other solutions that will meet the guiding principles. It is the intent of the Work Group that the projects and/or management plans that it recommends meet all of the objectives and not violate any of the guiding principles. The Work Group recognizes however that the projects and plans may be implemented over time and possibly in phases.
- Absence of a member or their designated alternate representative at a meeting where a decision is made cannot be used to block a consensus decision made by the members present at such a meeting.
- Where attendance at a regularly scheduled Work Group meeting is not possible, a member may designate an alternative representative to attend the meeting in their absence. Such a designated alternative representative shall have participation and decision-making rights equal to that of the absent member.
- Decisions cannot be made to obligate a member to implement a project if they do not agree.
- If full consensus cannot be reached after a dispute resolution process, a formal dissenting opinion can be filed.

### **Expectations of Work Group Members:**

- Members will make every effort to attend meetings and stay actively engaged in the Work Group's efforts. Failure to do so may result in (1) notification of concern from the Work Group, and (2) being taken off the membership list by consensus of the Work Group upon recommendation of the Steering Committee.
- Members must participate in good-faith with an honest intent to find collaborative solutions to address the needs, issues, and concerns of all other Work Group members.
- Participation is needs-based, meaning that members must understand their own needs and both understand and acknowledge the needs of other Work Group members. Members will represent their own views and the perspectives of their organization(s) and are responsible for coordinating with their constituencies to bring perspectives forward.
- Members must be adequately well-versed in the process and issues to articulate their organization's perspectives, needs, and preferences.

- Collaborative problem solving depends on mutual respect and careful listening among members and on active participation by all. Meetings will be conducted in a respectful atmosphere where all parties seek to foster trust and understanding.
- Members will strive for honest and direct communication and focus on interests and needs rather than positions. Members will allow for open discussion, will respect the right to disagree, and will look for collaborative solutions.
- Comments directed towards other participants or organizations must stay constructive, positive and helpful. Questions and concerns should be voiced directly within the Work Group forum or with the facilitator and/or a representative from one of the convening organizations.
- Members recognize that the scale of projects being discussed is complex and that a lot of data and information needs to be gathered to quantify all of the elements of this strategy. It is important to continue to move forward collectively with the projects in a Base Package that meet everyone's needs and these projects will continually be reviewed as more information is obtained.

### **Steering Committee:**

The Work Group shall convene a Steering Committee made up of members who can represent the needs, concerns, and interests of a constituent stakeholder group or groups. Steering Committee members have the ability to participate more regularly than regular Work Group members and commit to active participation in Steering Committee meetings and functions. Steering Committee members must have a sufficiently detailed understanding of specific project and/or process elements to work on them constructively. Steering Committee members are listed in Appendix B. The Steering Committee will:

- Meet regularly and work through project and process elements in enough detail to provide recommendations to the Work Group.
- Oversee studies and assessments that will fill data gaps and support project development and design.
- Provide feedback, guidance, and recommendations to the Work Group regarding data gaps, specific projects, and decisions relating to funding recommendations and financing strategy.
- Develop agendas and formulate recommendations for Work Group meetings and schedule Work Group meetings as necessary.
- Decision making for developing recommendations will be done by consensus in the same manner as the full Icicle Work Group.
- Convene technical subcommittees to discuss specific topics and answer questions brought up by the Work Group and Steering Committee. Potential topics include: instream flow targets/benefits, LNFH facilities and related projects, storage projects, pump exchange projects, outreach, and environmental review.
- Provide direction to and collaboration with Co-Conveners. Provide oversight to the Co-Conveners regarding administrative and coordination of the overall process.
- Propose revisions to Steering Committee roles and responsibilities as defined in these Operating Procedures.

## **Co-Conveners**

The Co-Conveners of this effort consist of the Washington Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River and Chelan County. The Co-Conveners are responsible for overall coordination and facilitation of the Icicle Work Group's effort in close coordination with the Steering Committee. This includes making day-to-day administrative decisions; providing administrative and facilitation support to the Work Group, Steering Committee and Technical Subcommittees; providing technical support in the identification and development of projects; providing funding coordination; and working with individual Work Group members as needed.

## **Dispute Resolution:**

If members are unable to reach consensus on key decisions relating to recommendations for project funding, a water resource management plan, or other important matters and/or otherwise are unable to resolve material disputes relating to Work Group functions and processes, the Work Group (or the entities in dispute) shall within 30 days work to resolve the issue prior to referring the dispute to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee may in its discretion attempt to work with the disputants to resolve the dispute within 30 days or may refer the dispute to an Ad-hoc Dispute Resolution Sub-committee or an appropriate third party neutral.

## **Conflict of Interest:**

Work Group Members are individually responsible for identifying possible or actual conflicts of interest and must make the Work Group aware of the conflict before participating in any Work Group decision in which such a conflict of interest exists.

## **Interested Parties:**

All Work Group meetings are open to the public. Interested parties may attend Work Group meetings and make comment during the public comment portion of the agenda.

## **Amendments:**

Any Work Group member may suggest amendment(s) to these Operating Procedures during any regularly scheduled Work Group meeting. The suggested amendment will take effect upon consensus decision of the Work Group.