

**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF
PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE ICICLE CREEK WATER
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Office of the Columbia River (OCR) and Chelan County Natural Resource Department (Chelan County) are initiating preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Icicle Creek Water Resource Management Strategy (Icicle Strategy). Ecology and Chelan County are co-lead agencies for this PEIS that is being prepared in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Description of Proposal:

The Icicle Work Group (IWG) was convened by Ecology OCR and Chelan County to find collaborative solutions for water management within the Icicle Creek drainage. The IWG is made up of a diverse set of stakeholders representing local, state and federal agencies, tribes, agricultural and domestic interests, and environmental organizations. A goal of the Icicle Strategy is to invest in a variety of projects targeting substantive flow benefits in late summer and early fall.

The Icicle Strategy is proposed to improve water supplies and aquatic habitat in the Icicle Creek drainage. OCR, Chelan County, and the IWG identified several water management solutions that can collectively meet the proposed Guiding Principles, including:

- Icicle Peshastin Irrigation District (IPID) Irrigation Efficiency Upgrades
- Cascade Orchards Irrigation Company (COIC) Irrigation Efficiency Upgrades
- Domestic Conservation Efficiency Upgrades
- Alpine Lakes Optimization, Modernization, and Automation
- Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery (LNFH) Conservation and Water Quality Improvements
- Eightmile Lake Restoration Project
- Water Markets
- Habitat Improvements between RM 2.7-4.5 and Land Acquisitions
- Rehabilitate LNFH Intake, Operational Improvements at Structure 2, Icicle Creek Passage, Tribal Fisheries Improvements
- LNFH/COIC, IPID, and City of Leavenworth Diversion Screening updates
- Instream Flow Rule Amendment (WAC 173-545)

The PEIS will provide an evaluation of the potential significant adverse impacts associated with the proposed Guiding Principles, and projects that can collectively meet the Guiding Principles.

The SEPA Checklist and additional information on the Icicle Strategy can be found at:

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/icicle-work-group?parent=Planning>

Proponent: Chelan County and Ecology's OCR

Location of Proposal: Icicle Creek drainage and vicinity, Wenatchee and Columbia Rivers, Chelan County, Washington

SEPA Lead Agencies: Department of Ecology Office of Columbia River and Chelan County

SEPA Responsible Officials: G. Thomas Tebb and Mike Kaputa

EIS Required: The lead agencies have determined this proposal may have probably significant adverse environmental impacts. A programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) and will be prepared. The lead agencies have identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS:

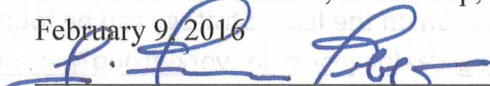
- Possible changes in instream flows
- Potential changes in water levels on shoreline areas
- Potential impacts of work occurring within or adjacent to shorelines and water bodies
- Potential impacts associated with increased domestic use
- Potential changes in water quality, aquatic habitat, and fish passage

Scoping: Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the PEIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. Written or email comments will be accepted through May 11 2016.

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

Scoping Open House: The lead agencies have elected to expand the scoping process in accordance with WAC 197-11-410 to promote interagency cooperation, public participation, and innovative ways to streamline the SEPA process. To support this, a public open house has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2016 from 4 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Leavenworth Fire Hall, 228 Chumstick Hwy, Leavenworth, Washington.

Requests for sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired or other special assistance needs should be submitted to Mike Kaputa, at (509) 670-6935 or Mike.Kaputa@CO.CHELAN.WA.US.

Responsible Official: G. Thomas Tebb
Position/Title: Director, Office of Columbia River
Phone Number: (509) 574-3989
Address: 1250 West Alder Street, Union Gap, WA 98903-0009
Date: February 9, 2016
Signature: 

Responsible Official: Mike Kaputa
Position/Title: Director, Chelan County Natural Resource Department
Phone Number: (509) 670-6935
Address: 411 Washington Street, Suite 201, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Date: February 9, 2016
Signature: 