



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

North Cascades National Park
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area
Ross Lake National Recreation Area
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284-1239

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L76 (Ross Rockslide EA)

March 20, 2012

Dear Friends of North Cascades:

Two years ago a rockslide within Ross Lake National Recreation Area destroyed several facilities used by Seattle City Light (SCL) for hydroelectric operations, and by the National Park Service for recreational use and administration of the area. Immediately after the rockslide, SCL worked in coordination with the National Park Service (NPS) to reestablish temporary access for hydroelectric and recreational uses. Since then, SCL has developed a long-term plan to permanently reestablish safe access to hydroelectric facilities in a manner that minimizes potential impacts to park resources and values, including recreational uses.

This letter announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment that evaluates the potential impacts that would occur in order for SCL to permanently reestablish facilities that were destroyed by the slide. The EA, photos of the Project Area and a Frequently Asked Questions are available for downloading from the project website at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ross_rockslide

We encourage commenting online at the website noted above. Comments may also be submitted via regular mail, postmarked by Thursday, April 19, 2012, to: Superintendent, North Cascades National Park, ATTN: Ross Rockslide EA, 810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284.

Hard copies of the EA are available for public review at the NPS headquarters in Sedro-Woolley, WA, and at the NPS Ranger Station in Marblemount, WA. A copy of the EA is also available at the Seattle Public Library, Central Branch, 1000 4th Ave, Seattle. Limited copies of the full document are also available by contacting Shelley Kluz, NPS Administrative Assistant at 360.854.7201 or via email at noca_superintendent@nps.gov.

One of the main actions addressed in the EA is a series of blasts in summer 2012 intended to dismantle an unstable rock buttress above the rockslide, which is likely to collapse. Blasting would be followed by rock scaling and bolting to shore up the area and make it safe for facility reconstruction. The EA also discusses various measures to minimize impacts to visitors and park resources, including rehabilitation of the area after construction.

For more information about this project, please visit the project website noted above, or contact Roy Zipp, Environmental Protection Specialist at 360-854-7313.

Sincerely,

Palmer L. Jenkins
Superintendent