

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX
LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-1239

Lake Chelan National Recreation Area

Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan and Land Protection Plan
Planning Update, July 2011

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

North Cascades
National Park Complex



Public Comments Now Available

The public comment period for the Stehekin River Plan closed on February 11, 2011 after an extended 150-day public review period, a two-day open house in Stehekin, and five public meetings. A total of 872 individual comments were received on the plan which provide valuable input about the future management of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

The entire set of comments received on the Draft Stehekin River Plan is now available for public review at the Golden

West Visitor Center in Stehekin and at our headquarters in Sedro-Woolley. The public comments are also available online at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/SRCIP>. (From the plan website, click on the "Document List" link on left-side of this webpage and select the link entitled "Public Comments on SRCIP and DEIS".)

A Planning Update from the NPS

Why Plan?

In response to the damage to public and private infrastructure from the record floods of 1995, 2003, and 2006, the Stehekin River Plan:

- Sustainably provides for recreation, access, and visitor services, and
- Protects natural and cultural resources,

All with the understanding that the NPS does not have unlimited funding.

Next Steps

Over the coming months, we will be undertaking the following tasks:

- Respond to substantive public comments and making appropriate changes to the plan.
- Complete additional road alignment surveys in the vicinity of McGregor Meadows.
- Convene a field visit with the Federal Highway Administration to clarify alternatives for the Stehekin Valley Road.
- Gather additional natural resource and socioeconomic-related information.
- Identify a final preferred alternative for the plan and completing the final environmental impact statement.

We expect to complete the *Final Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* in 2012.

For more Information

Planning Website:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/SRCIP>

Project Manager:

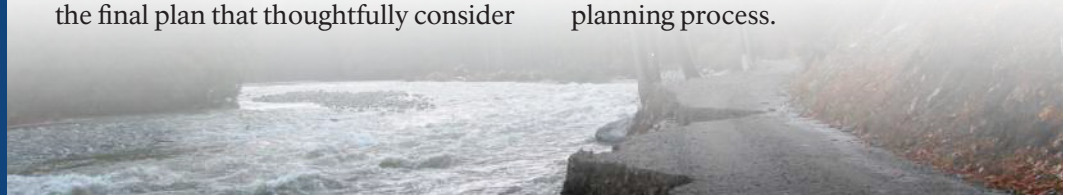
Dr. Jon Riedel, Geologist,
360-854-7330.

Thank you for your participation in the public review process of the *Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* and the *Draft Land Protection Plan* (Stehekin River Plan). Several months have passed since the public comment period closed on these draft documents. We are now working hard to compile and analyze your comments, gather additional information, and perform analyses as requested by you and others. This new information will help make important decisions about the final plan that thoughtfully consider

and respond to your comments and suggestions.

In an effort to maintain open lines of communication, we wanted to update you on our progress in the planning process, how you can access the full range of public comments on the Stehekin River Plan, and what we are doing next to move toward finalizing the plan.

Thank you again for your on-going participation and engagement in this planning process.



Working through the Issues

Over the past three months, we have gathered and processed information to respond to the 872 received public comments and make appropriate changes to the plan.

Given the substantive nature of the comments received, we asked the Federal Highway Administration to survey additional options for the proposed road relocation into and around McGregor Meadows.

We also organized five day-long workshops and convened several internal meetings to consider the public

comments received regarding the draft update to the *1995 Land Protection Plan*. While no final recommendations have been selected, we are considering changes to the scoring criteria used to prioritize lands for potential exchange or acquisition from willing sellers. We are looking to highlight the lands that are most at risk from future flooding and help us and private landowners plan for sustainability in the future.

We look forward to finalizing some of these important decisions early this fall so that we can complete the plan in 2012.

Planning Schedule

Year	Process/ Task
2007-2008	Determine the scope of the project and issues to be addressed
2008	Develop and evaluate preliminary alternatives
2008	Public review of preliminary alternatives
2008-2010	Prepare a Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
2010-2011	Conduct a public review of Draft Plan and EIS
2011-2012	Prepare a Final Plan and EIS*
2012	Public review of Final Plan and EIS
2012	Prepare a Record of Decision
2012 and on	Implement the approved plan
*Current Step in the Planning Process	