

# Socioeconomic Information

## Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

North Cascades  
National Park Complex



In response to public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the National Park Service analyzed the historic and current socioeconomic environment in the Stehekin Valley. Since the establishment of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, the remote community of Stehekin has undergone some notable changes. The year-round population and number of housing units have more than doubled. The proportion of homes that are occupied part-time and the number of homes owned by non-residents have increased. After the 1968-1973 period, the National Park Service has been involved in only a fraction of land transactions.

### Land Use

Within the first five years of the creation of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (1968 to 1973), 57 private landowners sold approximately 980 acres (in 79 tracts) to become public park land. Between 1973 and 2012, private land owners have requested the National Park Service purchase 20 tracts, four scenic easements, and three land exchanges (Figure 1).

Since adoption of the current Land Protection Plan in 1995, there have been 69 land transactions in Lake Chelan NRA. Of these transactions, 62 (89.9%) were between private parties and seven (10.1%, three of which were land exchanges), involved the National Park Service (Figure 2).

There are 416 acres of private land in the national recreation area. Approximately 73% of this land is owned by people whose primary tax address is outside of the Stehekin Valley.

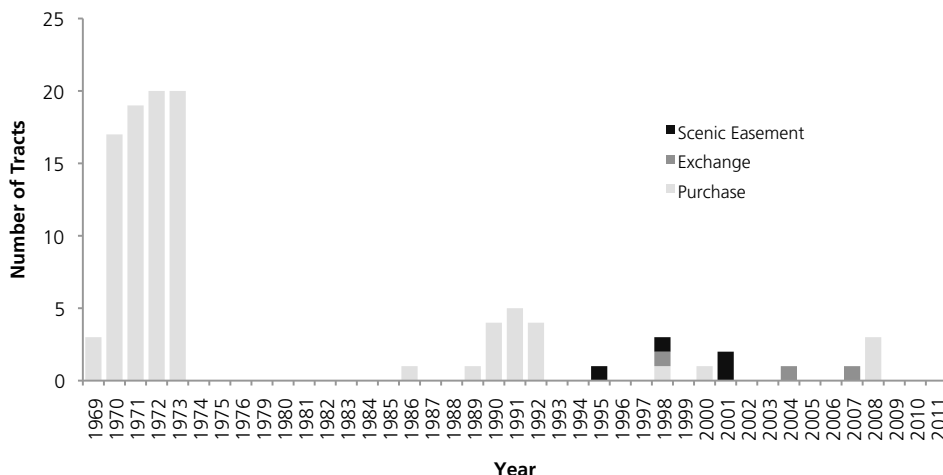
### Population and Housing

In 1968, when Lake Chelan NRA was created, Stehekin had a year-round population of approximately 50 people and approximately 82 homes. Since then the population and number of homes has nearly doubled. Today, according to the U.S. Census, the year round population is approximately 104 and there are approximately 191 homes (Figures 3 and 4).

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, 77% of the homes are vacant for some part of the year and 23% of the homes are occupied year round (Figure 5).

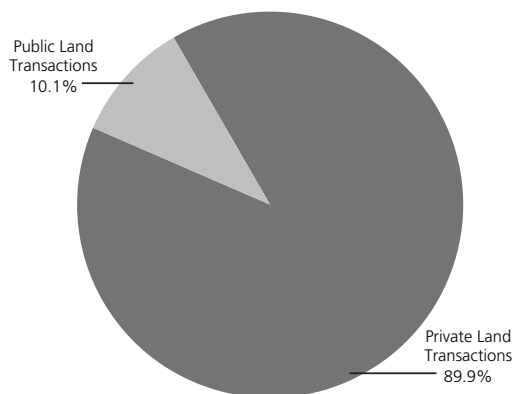
The National Park Service owns 34 residences (18% of the total in Stehekin). Twenty-three of the residences are used for NPS employees, including temporary workers and volunteers. Eleven of these residences are assigned to the concessionaire to provide housing for their em-

Figure 1. NPS Land Transactions in Lake Chelan NRA (1969–2011)



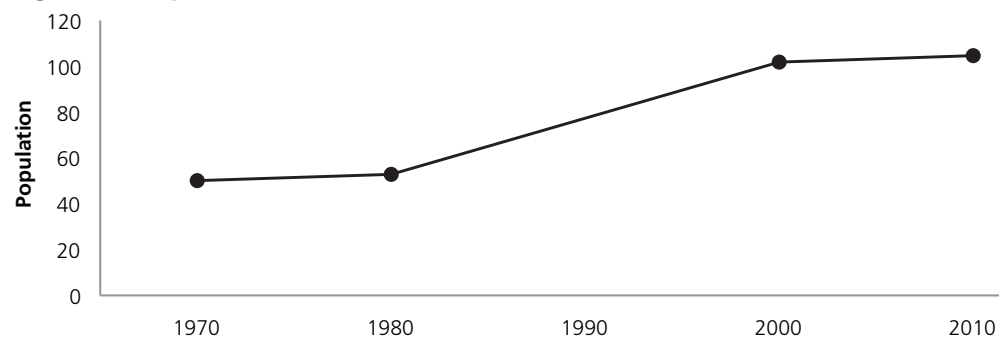
Source: NPS 2011.

Figure 2. Land Transactions in the Stehekin Valley (1995-2012)



Source: Chelan County 2012.

Figure 3. Population Growth in Stehekin (1970–2010)



Source: NPS 1981; NPS 1987; U.S. Census Bureau 2000, 2010.

ployees to operate the lodge, restaurant, store, shuttle bus, and other services.

### Public Expenditures

Considering Stehekin's tourism-based economy, most of the 36 known business are visitor service oriented. Approximately 10 businesses provide construction and transportation-related services. Twenty-three of these businesses provide visitor service, including two National Park Service concessions.

Five Stehekin-based businesses receive regular contracts from the National Park Service. These include contracts for hauling NPS and community generated solid waste, road maintenance including emergency road repairs following floods, forest thinning for fuel reduction, and supporting emergency response such as feeding fire fighters. Since 2006, the NPS has paid over \$1.8 million to these five local businesses (an average of \$329,000 per year).

In order to provide vehicle access for visitors and residents, the National Park Service does regular road maintenance (snow plowing, patching, brushing, etc.) and emergency repairs. This work is accomplished through a combination of NPS employees and contractors. From 2003–2007, the NPS spent slightly over \$1 million on maintaining or repairing the 14.2 miles of road in the Stehekin Valley (Figure 6). Of this approximately 45% or \$465,000 was paid to and accomplished by Stehekin-based contractors.

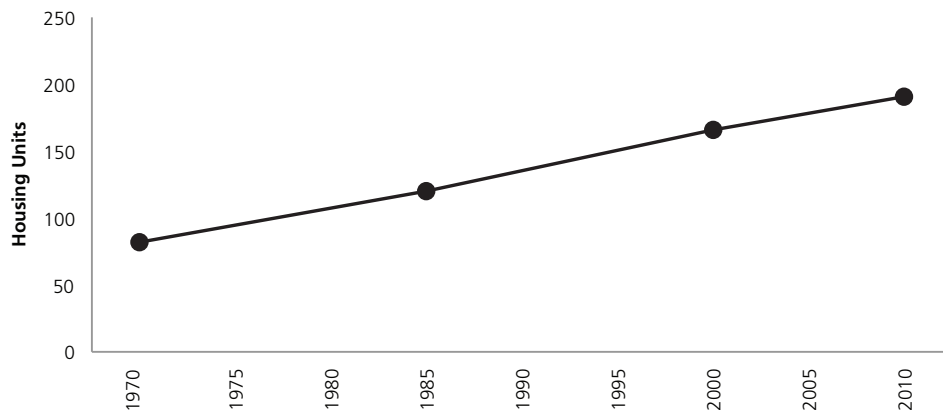
In 2011, the National Park Service (federal) employed 36 people, including 10 permanent and 22 temporary employees and four volunteers.

The U.S. Postal Service employs one year-round, part-time postmaster and two part-time assistants. In addition, the U.S. Post Office has a contract with the Lady of the Lake to pay for delivering the mail to Stehekin. In 2011, this contract was for \$82,000.

The Stehekin School district employs one full-time head teacher and at least five part time positions. In 2010, the Stehekin School District received approximately \$317,000 from local, state, and federal sources.

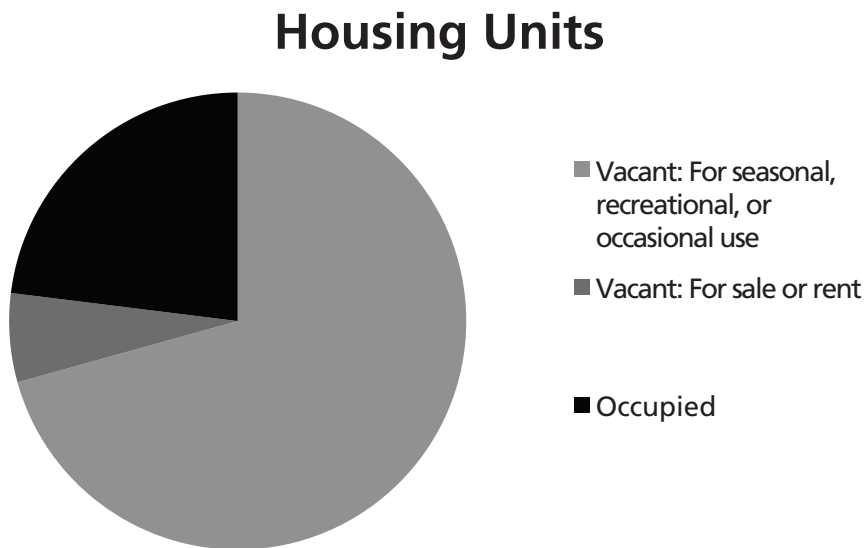
The Chelan County Public Utility District employs one year-round operation attendant and two part-time assistants.

**Figure 4. Housing unit growth in Stehekin (1968–2010)**



Source: NPS 1982; NPS 1985; U.S. Census Bureau 2000, 2010.

**Figure 5. Occupancy and Vacancy in Stehekin (2010)**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010.

**Figure 6. Stehekin Road Maintenance Costs (2003-2007)**

Year	Regular Road Maintenance (includes snow removal, patching, brushing, and labor costs)		Storm Damage Repair Work		Total: Contract		TOTAL NPS EXPENDITURES
	Stehekin Contracts	NPS	Stehekin Contracts	NPS/Materials	Total \$	Total %	
2003	\$34,400	\$98,200			\$34,400	25.90%	\$132,600
2004	\$34,000	\$71,000	\$125,342	\$43,181	\$159,342	58.30%	\$273,523
2005	\$20,000	\$107,000	\$103,455	\$53,648	\$123,455	43.50%	\$284,103
2006	\$27,400	\$101,000	**	**	\$27,400	21.30%	\$128,400
2007	\$33,373	\$47,289	\$88,395	\$33,034	\$121,768	60.30%	\$202,091
TOTAL	\$149,173	\$424,489	\$317,192	\$129,863	\$466,365	45.7%	\$1,020,717

\*\* A major flood occurred in October 2006 that damaged large sections of road. While the NPS began planning for repairs in 2006, storm damage repair work began the next year, in 2007, and continued through 2009.

Source: Slinde pers. comm. 2011; Cowen pers. comm. 2011b