



National Park Service Community Involvement Plan

**Newhalem Penstock, Ladder Creek Settling
Tank, and Diablo Dry Dock Sites**

Ross Lake National Recreation Area

Pacific West Region

June 2024



Revision Log:

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Title: Community Involvement Plan **Revision:** 4

Site Name: Newhalem Penstock, Ladder Creek Settling Tank, and Diablo Dry Dock Sites

Date: June 21, 2024

Park: Ross Lake National Recreation Area **Site Location:** Newhalem and Diablo, WA



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
EE/CA	Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
MTCA	Model Toxics Control Act
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
NPS	National Park Service
NOCA	North Cascades National Park Service Complex
ROLA	Ross Lake National Recreation Area
SCL	Seattle City Light

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Park Service (NPS) is issuing this Community Involvement Plan (CIP) as a resource to enable meaningful community involvement throughout its investigation, selection, and implementation of cleanup activities at the Newhalem Penstock, Ladder Creek Settling Tank, and Diablo Dry Dock (Sites), which are all located within Ross Lake National Recreation Area. The Sites became contaminated as a result of activities associated with the historical operations of Seattle City Light (SCL), a publicly owned utility company that operates three hydroelectric facilities within the national recreation area. NPS is conducting cleanup activities at each of the Sites pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601, et seq., and its implementing regulations under the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 C.F.R. Part 300. The NPS is committed to encouraging public participation and providing opportunities for communication between NPS and the affected community, interested stakeholders, and community residents during the environmental investigation and cleanup activities at the Sites.

CERCLA-related terms are defined in the Glossary in Appendix A.

1.1 Purpose and Objectives of the CIP

This CIP has been prepared in accordance with CERCLA and the NCP. This CIP serves as a guide for NPS to engage and inform community members, environmental groups, government officials, the media, and other interested parties in the environmental investigation and cleanup activities at the Sites. This CIP is a “living” document and it will be updated or revised, as appropriate, as the cleanup activities progress at the Sites.

This CIP has two key objectives.

1. Provide information to the public in a timely, accurate, meaningful, and understandable manner.
2. Create understandable opportunities for active public participation to enable interested persons to provide valuable comments for use by NPS project team for planning and decision making.

1.2 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

NPS is investigating and cleaning up the Sites pursuant to CERCLA and the NCP. Congress enacted CERCLA, also known as Superfund, in 1980 to address releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances into the environment. CERCLA gives the President broad powers to respond to hazardous substance releases and threatened releases as the President deems necessary to protect the public health or welfare or the environment, including enforcement authority with respect to parties responsible for the releases. The President has delegated this



authority to a number of federal departments and agencies, including the Department of the Interior. National Park Service, an agency within the Department of the Interior, is the CERCLA lead agency for the Sites.

To implement CERCLA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created the NCP, which is a set of regulations detailing how CERCLA cleanups are to be conducted, including requirements for community involvement activities. Different requirements apply to different types of response actions. NPS determined that time-critical removal actions are appropriate for the Newhalem Penstock (interim removal action) and Ladder Creek sites and that non-time-critical removal actions (NTCRA) are appropriate for the Newhalem Penstock and Diablo Dry Dock sites.

Time-critical removal actions were completed at the Newhalem Penstock (interim removal action) and Ladder Creek sites after NPS determined that on-site risks dictated that the response action be commenced as expeditiously as possible, with initiation of on-site work within six months. When a time-critical removal action is expected to extend beyond 120 days, NPS must prepare a community involvement plan as one of several community involvement activities required by the NCP.

Currently, non-time-critical removal actions are being conducted at the Newhalem Penstock and Diablo Dry Dock sites because a planning period of six months or more is available prior to the start of removal activities at the sites. As part of the non-time-critical removal actions, NPS is preparing an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for each site. Each EE/CA will fully characterize the nature and extent of site contamination, evaluate associated potential risks to human health and safety and the environment, identify relevant cleanup requirements, develop a range of cleanup alternatives, and identify a recommended removal action alternative. As the lead agency for the Sites, NPS must involve the community during the EE/CA process in the manner detailed in the NCP, and this CIP is part of that community involvement process (Appendix E).

1.3 Overview of the CIP

This CIP specifies the community involvement activities that NPS expects to undertake as investigation and cleanup of the Sites proceeds. This CIP is organized as follows:

- Section 1.0: Introduction – A description of the purpose of this CIP.
- Section 2.0: Site Background – An overview of each of the Sites, including description and history, site investigation information, and current and future site activities.
- Section 3.0: Community Background – A community profile, history of community involvement at the Sites, and a summary of community concerns and questions.

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- Section 4.0: Community Involvement Activities – A description of planned methods and activities for communicating with the public concerning activities at one or more of the Sites, and a general schedule of anticipated community involvement activities.
- Section 5.0: References – A list of references used in developing this CIP.

The appendices include a glossary (Appendix A), administrative record file and information repository details (Appendix B), community interview questionnaire (Appendix C), contact information (Appendix D), and tables of minimum community involvement requirements (Appendix E).

2.0 BACKGROUND OF PROJECTS

2.1 Newhalem Penstock Site

2.1.1 Site Description and History

The Newhalem Penstock site is located directly across the Skagit River from the unincorporated community of Newhalem on approximately 2.5 acres of land owned by the United States and managed by NPS. The site is accessible via a one lane bridge and road that passes through NPS Newhalem Campground which is approximately a quarter mile from the site. The site is approximately 1/3 mile upstream of Newhalem Creek's confluence with the Skagit River. See Figure 1.

The Newhalem Penstock was constructed by SCL in the 1920s as part of the power plant used during construction of Gorge Dam. It is part of the Newhalem Creek Hydroelectric Project, operated by Seattle City Light (SCL) under a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license. Project infrastructure includes a powerhouse, penstock, bedrock power tunnel, and creek diversion structure. This infrastructure is owned, operated, and maintained by SCL. However, in January 2022, SCL filed a license surrender application with FERC to decommission the Newhalem Creek Hydroelectric Project. The details of the decommissioning process are under consideration.

The aboveground portion of the penstock is located on a steep and somewhat rocky slope above the Newhalem Powerhouse. The penstock is 1,122 feet long and thirty inches in diameter. Approximately 904 feet of the penstock is above ground, and the remaining 218 feet is located within a bedrock tunnel. Until 2017, the aboveground portion of the penstock rested on wood frame supports, or pedestals, with bases of wood, concrete, or stone. Of the original penstock saddles, fifty-two were made entirely from treated wood. To maintain the original penstock, it is not known with certainty if sandblasting was used to remove old coats of paint, which may have contained lead before repainting the penstock. Much sandblast grit used historically in the Puget Sound region was derived from metal slag and may have contained heavy metals including lead, arsenic, copper, and zinc. In addition, the original wood supports from the penstock may have

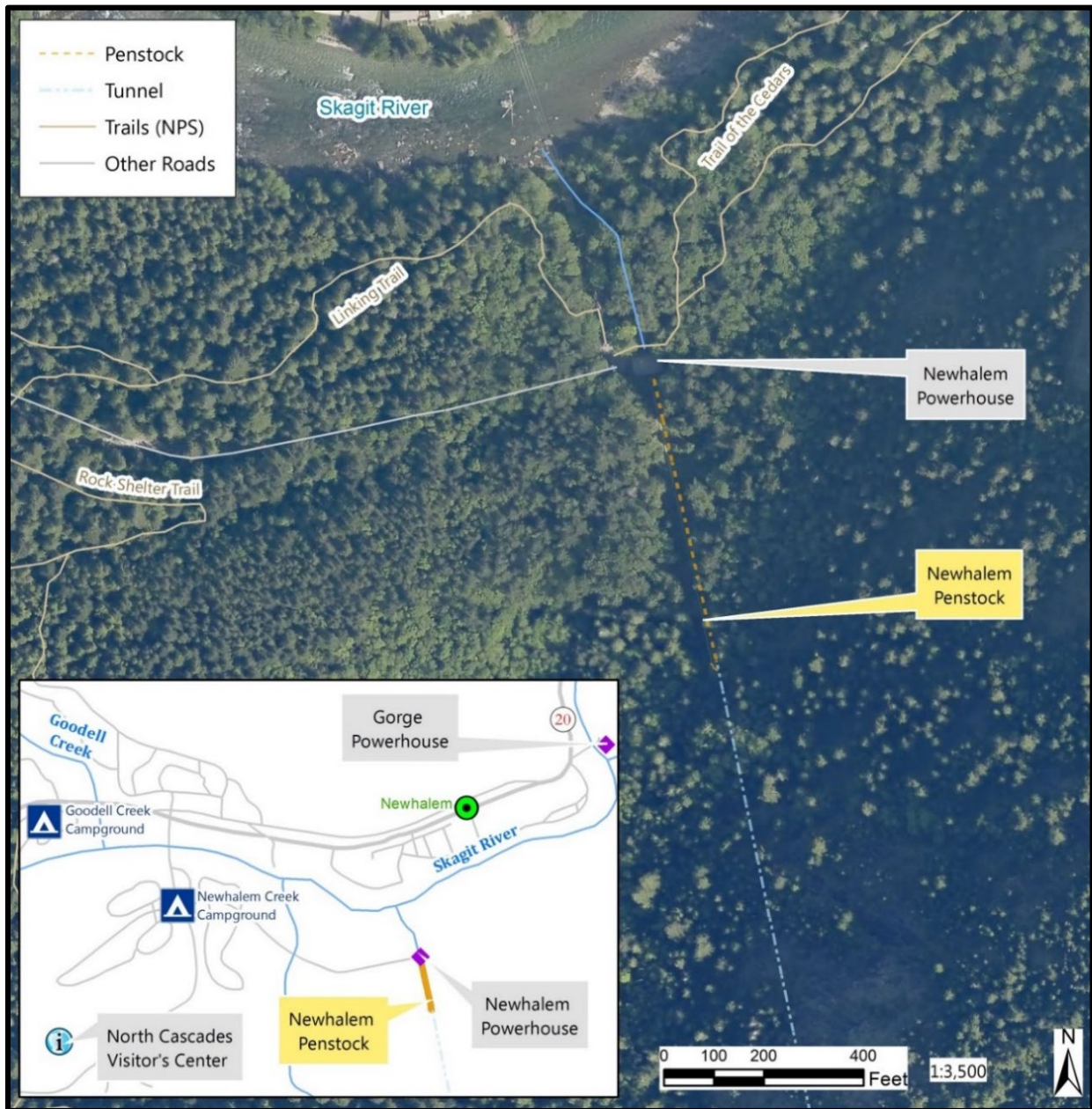


Figure 1. Site Map of Newhalem Penstock Site.

been preserved with copper chromium arsenate (CCA), creosote, or pentachlorophenol, all of which were used historically to retard the growth of moss and fungi. If wood preservatives were used, these chemicals may have leached into nearby soil.

The penstock is roughly 600 feet from the Skagit River where the diverted water of Newhalem Creek enters this tributary to Puget Sound. The Skagit River supports all six native salmonid



species, including federally threatened Puget Sound Chinook Salmon, as well as federally listed (threatened) Puget Sound Steelhead and Bull Trout. An ephemeral stream runs adjacent to the penstock, flowing down the slope to the powerhouse. Ephemeral stream outflow enters the tailrace of Newhalem Creek and discharges into the Skagit River.

In August 2015, the Goodell Fire burned much of the surrounding area, including some of the wooden penstock saddle supports, reducing native vegetation and increasing the impacts of erosion in the immediate vicinity. Temporary supports were installed at four saddle locations as an emergency project to prevent the penstock from being damaged by buckling. SCL replaced all the saddles with cast-in-place concrete pedestals in 2017. While removing the saddles, approximately 204 tons of soil was removed and disposed of offsite as contaminated soil.

Prior to cleanup, soils around the penstock contained elevated levels of lead, arsenic, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) according to assessments produced by SCL. The lead is assumed to be from old paint on the penstock; the arsenic and PAHs may be from the treated timbers used for the original saddles.

2.1.2 Previous Environmental Studies and Response Actions

In 2009, prior to repainting the penstock supports, SCL tested the historical paint coatings using an x-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometer, a field instrument that measures metal concentrations of in site media. Detectable lead concentrations were documented with the XRF spectrometer in approximately half of the samples collected. The penstock was then repainted to encapsulate the historical paint coatings.

In 2014, SCL conducted soil sampling along the penstock using an XRF survey. Soil samples were screened for selected metals, including lead, arsenic, copper, chromium, and zinc. Additionally, selected soil samples were collected in small plastic bags for transfer to sample containers for confirmatory laboratory analysis.

Then in 2015, after the fire, additional sampling was conducted to further evaluate the extent of soil contamination and determine proper handling of soil to be removed by the saddle replacement work. Samples were also collected in April 2016 from the wood saddles to determine the specific type of preservative(s) in the wood.

The results of the soil sampling tests showed elevated levels of lead and arsenic above Washington State's Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) cleanup levels in the vicinity of the penstock. Wood sample analysis results indicated the wood was preserved with coal-tar creosote. In some locations, soil within approximately two to three inches of the wood saddles contained levels of carcinogenic PAHs above MTCA cleanup levels. The reports from the investigations



are available in the Administrative Record, available at the information repositories listed in Appendix B.

Based on SCL's need to imminently replace the wooden saddles to ensure the ongoing operation of the Newhalem Hydroelectric Project and based on the results from the site investigations, NPS approved a time-critical removal action at the Newhalem Penstock site on September 1, 2016. This authorized the removal and disposal of contaminated soil to be excavated during SCL's project to replace penstock saddles. Following this approval, SCL initiated the removal action of contaminated soils in October 2016 and completed the removal and overall saddle replacement project in September 2017.

Over the course of the eleven-month project, SCL excavated the soils around each saddle location, classified the material as RCRA Subtitle D non-hazardous material, packaged the soil in bags suited for contaminated material, transported the bags off-site via small trail toters, and disposed of the material at a USEPA-compliant landfill licensed to accept the material. Removal of all the wood saddles included removal of the soil surrounding each saddle. Consequently, some, if not all, of the PAH-impacts from the saddles may have been removed by the saddle replacement project. Wood waste generated from saddles, designated as "state-only treated wood waste" and excluded from Dangerous Waste Regulations under Washington State Administrative Code (173-303-071(3)(g)(ii)), was disposed of in a municipal solid waste landfill permitted under chapter 173-351 of Washington Administrative Code.

The remaining project work consisted of constructing formwork and pouring concrete for cast-in-place concrete footings and saddles and restoring the contours and vegetation communities around the penstock.

Although much of the contamination from the penstock and associated maintenance activities may have been removed from the site during the time-critical removal action, the investigations completed by SCL in 2015 and 2016 showed that some lead and arsenic may remain within the surrounding area that are above the MTCA cleanup levels. However, the time-critical removal action likely significantly reduced the potential threat. Furthermore, these initial investigations only compared Site contaminants to cleanup levels protective of human health for unrestricted land use because of the immediate threat of exposure to workers during the execution of the penstock replacement project. For example, these investigations did not include a site-specific terrestrial ecological evaluation to determine chemicals of ecological concern, exposure pathways, terrestrial ecological receptors of concern, and ecological-based cleanup levels.

2.1.3 Current and Future Site Activities

Following completion of the time-critical removal action and saddle replacement project, the NPS determined that site conditions warranted additional response to evaluate the release or



threatened release of hazardous substances and that a non-time-critical removal action may be appropriate at the site as specified in 40 CFR Section 300.415(b). The NPS selected this course of action because investigations completed by SCL in 2015 and 2016 showed that some lead and arsenic may remain within the surrounding area that are above the MTCA cleanup levels.

An EE/CA has been drafted that provides site characterization data, assess site-specific ecological and human health risks, and identify ecological-based cleanup levels, evaluate various response alternatives, recommend a preferred response alternative, and provide a vehicle for public involvement. This EE/CA will be publicly published and made available for a 30-day public comment period, after which it will be finalized. If additional action is necessary, the NPS will develop and prepare an action memorandum to authorize a non-time-critical removal action on-site.

2.2 Ladder Creek Settling Tank Site

2.2.1 Site Description and History

The Ladder Creek Settling Tank site is located upstream and across the Skagit River from Newhalem on 0.1 acres of land owned by the United States and managed by the NPS. However, the settling tank and associated infrastructure, including excess building materials is owned, operated, and maintained by SCL. The tank is situated on a flat bench surrounded by relatively steep slopes with occasional bedrock outcrops. The area around the tank contains associated infrastructure, including pipes and excess building materials. The area is remote and forested and located approximately forty feet from Ladder Creek. The site is 350 yards upstream of the Ladder Creek's confluence with the Skagit River. The Skagit River is the largest tributary to Puget Sound and supports all six native salmonid species (including federally threatened Puget Sound Chinook salmon), as well as federally listed (threatened) Puget Sound steelhead and bull trout. Ephemeral streams occur elsewhere in the general vicinity but are not within the area assumed to contain contamination. The site is approximately 300 feet in elevation above, and 1/4 mile from the Gorge Powerhouse and associated grounds and facilities. An unmaintained foot trail is the only way to access the site and it is located behind the Gorge Powerhouse and across a gated bridge that traverses Ladder Creek (Figure 2).

The Ladder Creek Settling Tank was originally constructed as part of the domestic water supply system for the town of Newhalem, a historic company town owned and operated by SCL. Water was diverted from Ladder Creek into the tank, where silt and sand carried by the creek were settled out. Water then discharged from the tank and followed conveyance lines under gravity flow down to the Gorge Powerhouse and into Newhalem. The original tank structure included a two-story framed building with a corrugated aluminum roof that fully enclosed the tank and protected it from the elements.

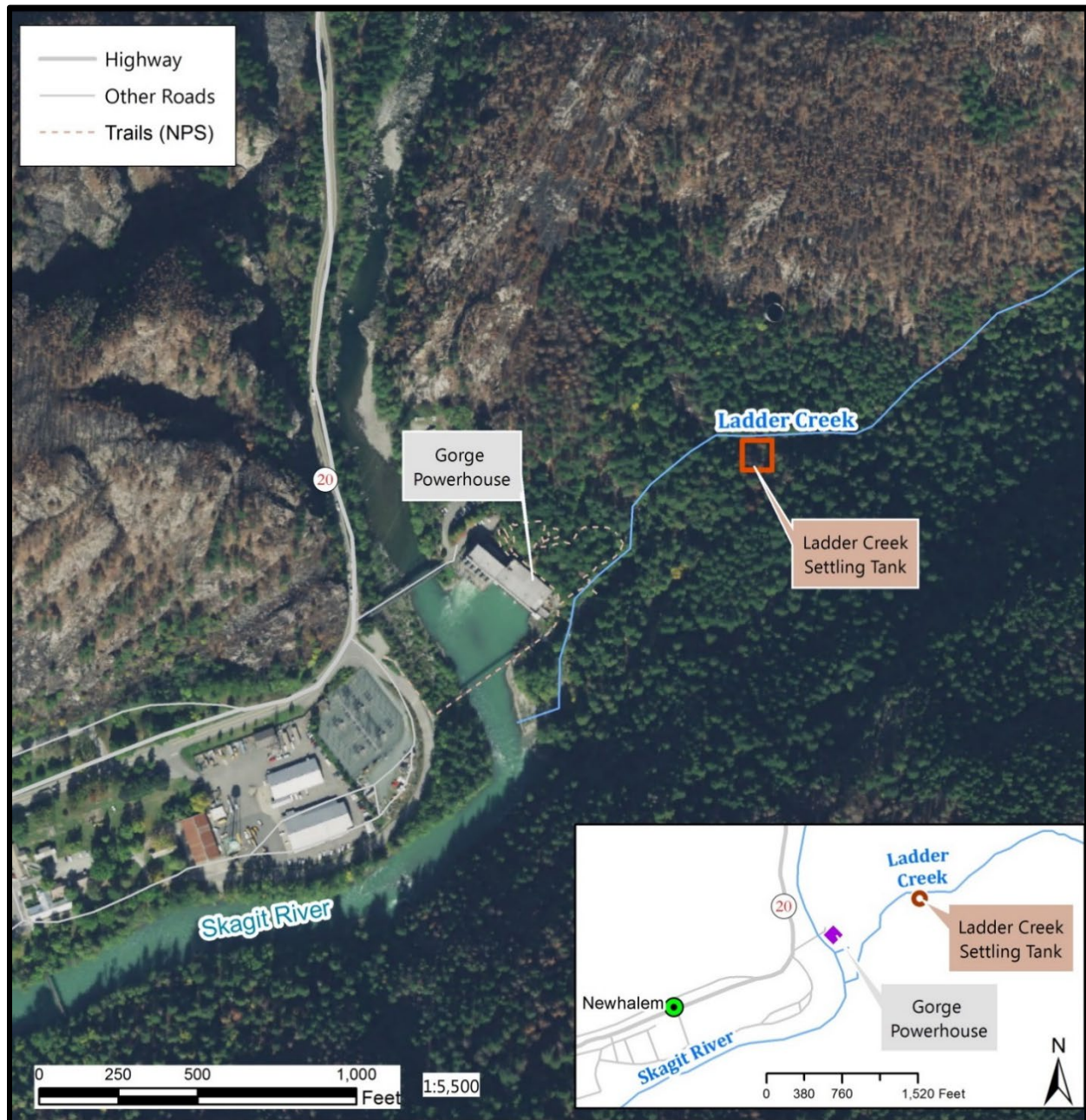


Figure 2. Site Map of Ladder Creek Settling Tank Site

During the 2015 Goodell Fire the exterior protective building was completely burned; no portion of the structure was left standing except for the water tank. The tank remains open to the elements and continues to collect rainwater. As a result of the complete burning of the building, a debris field consisting of burn ash, charred construction materials, and metal roof shards surrounded the tank prior to the cleanup action. Assessments completed by the NPS and SCL

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following the wildfire found that the water tank, which was left intact but impacted with residue from the fire, was uncovered and collecting rainwater. The assessments also found that the debris field on the ground surface surrounding the tank contained charred construction materials including paint, mastic coating, electrical cables/insulation, lighting, melted/re-solidified metal roof shards, and unidentified materials. Soil in approximately the same area as the debris field also was impacted by the fire, primarily by airborne fallout during the burning of the building structure. Post fire sampling results indicated concentrations of lead and arsenic within the water tank and arsenic, chromium, lead, and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs) in the surrounding soil.

2.2.2 Previous Environmental Studies and Response Actions

At the request of the NPS, SCL conducted an initial field reconnaissance soon after the Goodell Fire in October 2015. This field investigation consisted of in-situ field screening soil, collecting surface (0-3 inches depth) soil samples from three transects for laboratory analysis to determine extent (width and depth) of potential contamination, collecting a water sample from the tank, and sampling the charred coating material adhering to the exterior of the settling tank. Soil and water samples from the tank site and six soil samples collected from nearby forested areas burned by the fire but not known to be affected by anthropogenic sources, were then analyzed for concentration of metals, semi volatiles (SVOCs), and cPAHs. A forensic analysis was also completed on the charred coating material adhering to the exterior of the settling tank. The reports from these investigations is available in the Administrative Record which can be found at the information repositories listed in Appendix B.

Laboratory analytical results for soil were compared to Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and NPS screening levels for unrestricted land use, plants, birds, mammals, and other ecological receptors. Results for tank water were compared to Ecology and EPA criteria for drinking water quality.

The field investigation identified concentrations of lead and arsenic in water discharge from the tank exceeding Ecology and EPA criterion and arsenic, chromium, lead, and cPAHs in the surrounding soil exceeding screening levels. The investigation identified arsenic and cPAHs as soil contaminants of potential concern for *human health*, and arsenic, chromium (total), lead, and cPAHs as soil contaminants of potential concern for *ecological receptors*. Identifications were based on levels of contamination and the sensitivity of the receptor. The maximum concentrations for arsenic, chromium, and lead were all found at one sampling location.

Results from the forensic analysis of the charred material indicate that the material consists mostly of carbon with low concentrations of magnesium and silicone, which are consistent with charred asphalt that contains some mineral/clay filler.



From this investigation, the NPS also learned that some polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and metals are present in the surrounding burned forested areas that were not affected by the burned tank structure and otherwise not affected by anthropogenic sources. The presence of these contaminants is likely due to natural soil chemistry (for metals) and/or are the result of the burning of trees and vegetation in the Goodell Fire. These background sample results may be used to establish cleanup levels when they exceed applicable ecological soil concentrations for protection of terrestrial plants and animals.

Due to the proximity of the site to Ladder Creek and the Skagit River and concerns about contamination, the NPS acted in the fall of 2015 to install coir erosion logs around the structure to prevent or reduce mobilization of the debris field and surrounding soils and the associated contaminants of concern (arsenic and cPAHs). While discharge ports on the settling tank were closed to prevent runoff from tank discharge following the fire in fall 2015, in May 2016, SCL designed and installed a granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration system to treat, on an on-going basis, precipitation water that accumulates in the tank. Post-filtration sampling indicated that contaminants were removed by the system to well below Washington State Department of Ecology criteria.

On August 7, 2017, the NPS approved a time critical removal action at the site to eliminate potential risks to public health, welfare, and the environment from the release or threat of release of hazardous substances present at the site. The cleanup action began that same month and work commenced in four different phases. Phase I involved cleaning the inside of the settling tank and post-cleaning confirmation sampling. Phase II involved removing debris and shallow surface contaminated soil (0 to 4 inches below ground surface) and confirmation sampling. Phase III involved loading, transporting, and properly disposing of burned debris and contaminated soil at an approved disposal facility. Phase IV involved restoring the site to its pre-removal contours and vegetative conditions.

The preferred schedule for implementing the TCRA was to complete all phases in summer/fall 2017. Phase I tank cleanout was completed in 2017; however, due to NPS preference to prohibit project helicopter operations until fall 2017 and other logistical considerations, Phases II through IV (excavation, hauling, and restoration) were delayed until the spring of 2018. NPS rationale for the delay was to prevent impacts to the threatened Northern Spotted Owl and visitors within the vicinity of Newhalem. The remaining project work was completed in May of 2018.

During Phase I the contents of the tank were removed and then the interior of the tank was pressure washed. Discharge water from the cleaning was routed through the GAC infiltration system. Debris removed from the tank was placed in bags and staged in a covered stockpile under an overhanging portion of the tank. Approximately three tons of debris was removed during Phase I. After the cleaning was complete, confirmation samples of rinse water run



through and discharged from the tank had no detectable metals. Because COCs are no longer present within the tank the filtration system was removed.

During Phase II burnt debris and approximately the top four inches of soil across approximately 4,500 square feet was excavated from the site. The area delineated for debris and soil removal was based both on visual evidence of debris and soil chemistry results from the field investigation. Excavated material was placed in polyethylene bags in preparation for removal. During Phase II soil confirmation samples were collected in accordance with the Site Soil Confirmation Sampling Plan (Floyd Snider 2018b). Confirmation sampling was substantially completed by Floyd Snider on April 20, 2018, with additional sampling on May 14, 2018, to define excavation limits. The final confirmation sample results achieved statistical compliance with the remediation goals, to the extent practicable.

During Phase III the polyethylene bags were removed from the site via helicopter in 1-CY lined bulk bags and temporarily stored at City Light's bulk materials yard approximately three miles west of Newhalem. A total of 60.14 tons of debris and contaminated soil was removed from the site, including the sediment within the settling tank. However, to gain helicopter access to the site a total of eleven trees, eight of which were already dead from fire damage, were removed from the work area. On May 31 and June 1, 2018, the material was transported offsite via four intermodal containers to Waste Management's Columbia Ridge Landfill in Arlington, Oregon, a licensed Subtitle D landfill.

During Phase IV restoration materials including, NPS-approved three-way topsoil from Cedar Grove Composing, Inc., and NPS-approved mulch made from tree trunks and limbs recovered from City Light's reservoirs were transported to the site via helicopter. A total of twenty CY of topsoil followed by twenty-eight CY of mulch were spread evenly across the excavation area to restore the site and substantially return it to its pre-construction contours. After placement of the restoration materials, the Contractor re-secured the erosion control logs along the down-slope sides of the excavation area. Site restoration was completed between May 24 and May 25, 2018.

Following Phase IV, City Light used a natural recovery and adaptive management approach to restoring native vegetation at the site which involved controlling and monitoring weeds for two years. Current site conditions with regards to vegetation are to the satisfaction of NPS.

2.2.3 Current and Future Site Activities

Some leftover material from the time critical removal action, including plastic coir log bags, PVC tubing, and metal debris is planned to be removed from the site via hand in the summer of



2022. No other future site activities are planned. Revegetation and invasive species monitoring is complete.

2.3 Diablo Dry Dock Site

2.3.1 Site Description and History

The Diablo Dry Dock site is located on the north shores of Diablo Reservoir in Deer Creek Cove. The site is eight highway miles east of Newhalem and three and a half miles east of Diablo. The site is accessible via Diablo Dam Road off Washington State Highway 20. At the end of Diablo Dam Road, you can either walk or drive through the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) to reach the site which is on the eastern most side of the ELC near Deer Creek. See Figure 3.



Figure 3. Site Map of Diablo Dry Dock Site

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The Seattle City Light (SCL) Diablo Marine Railway and Shelter (referred to as the Diablo Dry Dock) was built in the early 1930s after Diablo Dam was completed in late 1929. The building was constructed to provide shelter for a marine railway used to build and maintain vessels operating on Diablo Lake, including the construction of the Alice Ross in 1936 and 1937, SCL's first tour boat. The dry dock building was constructed of sheet metal on a wood framework, supported by treated logs on concrete bases, and was built on native soils. It is open to the weather on two sides and is surrounded by a chain-link fence. A concrete and metal railway extends from the boathouse into the lake to haul boats out of the water from Diablo Reservoir.

2.3.2 Previous Environmental Studies and Response Actions

In 2014 and 2015, SCL contracted Hart Crowser to conduct a limited upland soil and sediment investigation at the site as an independent investigation under Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), prior to NPS's designation of the site under CERCLA. Two field sampling events were completed (September 16 and 17, 2014, and May 14 and 15, 2015). Surface soil and sediment samples were collected around and within the Diablo Dry Dock building (by hand) and the marine railway (from a boat); sample locations were documented using a portable GPS unit. The purpose of this investigation was to determine if metals, PAHs, or petroleum were released into the soil at concentrations greater than MTCA Method A and B screening levels and to determine if metals or petroleum were released to sediment at concentrations greater than the Washington State Sediment Management Standards (SMS) screening levels for fresh water.

With regards to the upland soil investigation, in September 2014, initial sampling of the site included six surface soil samples located within the building footprint, near the railway, and at the east and west exteriors of the building. Eight additional subsurface soil samples were collected in 2015 from four previous soil sample locations, and 15 additional surface soil samples were collected to further delineate the extent of soil that exceeded MTCA Method A/B screening criteria for arsenic, lead, and cPAHs.

With regards to the sediment investigation, in September 2014, eight surface sediment samples (0 to 10 centimeters [cm]) were collected south and east of the Diablo Dry Dock building below the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM), and two samples were collected from the marine railway in 2014.

Based on this investigation, the NPS learned that soils on-site (both in and outside of the building) include elevated levels of arsenic, lead, and carcinogenic PAH (cPAHs) above MTCA Method A cleanup levels, but no samples were classified as dangerous waste. Concentrations of cPAHs also exceeded the MTCA Method B unrestricted soil cleanup level in all six samples where cPAHs were detected. While no samples exceeded the MTCA Method A cleanup levels



for Unrestricted Land Use for diesel- or lube oil-range organics, three of the seven samples contained diesel-range organics below the cleanup level of 2000 mg/kg.

Following this report, SCL hired Geosyntec Consultants to prepare an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) that will characterize the nature and extent of contaminants and provide data that will facilitate an evaluation of risk to human health and ecological receptors and, if needed, identify, evaluate, and recommend removal action alternatives. SCL will use data collected during this field investigation to support potential response actions that may be undertaken by SCL, NPS, or other parties. However, prior to developing the EE/CA Geosyntec identified several data gaps and decided a new sampling and analysis plan (SAP) was necessary to inform the EE/CA. The data gaps are as follows: 1) The complete nature and extent (horizontal and vertical) of soil contamination for metals and PAHs, 2) The complete nature and extent of sediment contamination for metals and PAHs, and 3) Confirmation of the absence of elevated concentrations of pesticides in soil and sediment at the Site.

Geosyntec completed their SAP in April 2021 and completed additional sampling of the site on October 22, 2021. A total of 66 soil samples, including 4 field duplicates, were collected during upland explorations from 23 locations. Field QA/QC samples were also collected. The results of this additional investigation combined with the historical investigation showed screening level exceedances for metals, including arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, and zinc, and exceedances for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), including benzo(a)pyrene and total PAHs in upland soils.

Based on discussions with NPS on April 11 and 12, 2022, an additional data gap was identified regarding the nature and extent of soil contamination for metals and PAHs relative to background levels. The NPS commented in their May 2, 2022, response to SCL that background sampling for upland soils is required (Alberts, Collin 2022). Natural processes such as ambient variation of geochemistry, water infiltration, and geology can result in a baseline of detectable concentrations of contaminants of potential concern (COPCs) in surface soils. Evaluating background concentrations supports the ambient characterization of a site, and consequently, the identification of acceptable risk levels and delineation of impacted areas (USEPA 2002a, USEPA 2002b). In addition, the evaluation of contaminant background concentrations is of importance on NPS managed lands due to the non-impairment mandate in the Organic Act (NPS 2014) and the classification of all NPS lands as “sensitive environments.”

On July 27, 2022, Geosyntec finished a SAP addendum draft for NPS review that included a background soil sampling program to determine concentrations of chemicals of potential concern (COPCs). These results will be used to estimate background threshold values (BTVs) and evaluate BTVs and risk relative to site soil concentrations. The work scope includes collection of additional surface soil samples at 15 sampling locations in the perimeter of the site and/or



outside the assumed influence of historical site activities. Data collected during this sampling event will be used to satisfy Principal Investigation Question #3 as described in Table 8 (Data Quality Objectives) of the SAP.

2.3.3 Current and Future Site Activities

Geosyntec will be completing additional background soil sampling in the summer/fall of 2022. Following background soil sampling Geosyntec will continue to develop and finalize the EE/CA for the site which will provide site characterization data, assess site-specific ecological and human health risks, and identify ecological-based cleanup levels, evaluate various response alternatives, recommend a preferred response alternative, and provide a vehicle for public involvement. Once drafted, this EE/CA will be published to the public and made available for a 30-day public comment period. Once this EE/CA is finalized, the NPS will develop and prepare an action memorandum to authorize a non-time-critical removal action on-site.

3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

3.1 Community Profile

All three Sites are in Ross Lake National Recreation Area (RLNRA) which has approximately 900,000 visitors each year. Therefore, the community is largely a transient population. These visitors are coming to RLNRA for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to camping, hiking, boating, education, wildlife watching, and sightseeing. Once in the park, visitors are more likely to encounter the Newhalem Penstock and Diablo Dry Dock sites given their proximity to visitor hotspots. The Newhalem Penstock is near the North Cascades Visitor Center, Newhalem Campground, and an associated trail network. The Diablo Dry Dock is on the shores of Diablo Lake and next to the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center. Most visitor use near the Sites will occur between the months of May and October, with the highest use being between late-June and early/mid-September.

In comparison to the other two sites, Ladder Creek Settling Tank is in a remote area. The site is currently closed to the public and a locked gate on a bridge traversing Ladder Creek prevents access to an old and dilapidated trail that leads up to the site. However, a local resident interviewed for this Community Involvement Plan reported hiking up to the tank out of curiosity after noticing the access route from this lower, more popular trail.

In addition to RLNRA visitors, Seattle City Light (SCL) hydropower operations are also being conducted at or near the Sites and the NPS is managing the land. Therefore, employees of SCL and NPS and/or their contractors may also be visiting the Sites.



With regards to the permanent community, the closest towns to the Sites are the unincorporated communities of Newhalem and Diablo which consist of fewer than 100 residents. Both Newhalem and Diablo are company towns owned by SCL and surrounded by Ross Lake National Recreation Area. Residents consist of government workers and their families who are employed by either Seattle City Light, the Washington Department of Transportation (one employee), or Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, though some residents of Diablo are also employees of North Cascades Institute which operates the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center. The number of residents living in Newhalem, and Diablo has generally decreased over the years with modernization of SCL's operations.

The U.S. Census Bureau does not track population data for unincorporated communities. Therefore, Whatcom County data will be used as an estimate. The population of Whatcom County based on a 2021 estimate by the U.S. Census Bureau is 228,831. The population consists of 77.6% white persons, 4.8% persons of Asian descent, 3.4% persons of American Indian descent, 1.3% black persons or persons of African American descent, 0.3% persons of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander descent, 10.3% persons of Latino or Hispanic origins, and 4.3% of county residents are of two or more races. (US Census Bureau, 2021). These statistics are generally assumed to be representative of Newhalem and Diablo, though diversity is likely lower in this rural portion of the county.

There are no schools within five miles of the Sites; although the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center is immediately adjacent to the Diablo Dry Dock, which provides formal educational programs including to local schools through its on-campus Mountain School Program.

3.2 Community Involvement History

In 2017, the NPS developed and published a website for each of the Sites. Each website provides basic background information on the site and cleanup related activities, contact information, the locations where the administrative record is available for review, and community updates. These websites will continue to be periodically updated throughout the CERCLA process as necessary. Links to the website for each site are in Section 4.1 below.

The NPS also completed public notifications for the removal actions at these Sites through letters of consultation for the proposed actions, the development and posting of community updates for each site, and a press release and formal public comment period related to the administrative records and EE/CAs. Information repositories have also been established. Specifically, these activities include:

- SCL consulted with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Newhalem Penstock site, and with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Upper



Skagit Indian Tribe, the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community regarding both sites through letters of consultation. The NPS and SCL also had periodic email communication with these agencies and/or tribes during the implementation of the time-critical removal action at the Newhalem Penstock site as situations dictated. For example, the NPS and SCL continued informal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service when modifications to the project schedule and project activities were required that could have resulted in adverse effects to the northern spotted owl, which is listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

- When NPS started a non-time-critical removal action at the Newhalem Penstock site additional notifications were sent to natural resource trustees. Additionally, a letter was sent to the Washington State Department of Ecology asking for them to identify state applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements for the EE/CA.
- The NPS has also developed Community Updates for all the Sites. These have been developed with input from Seattle City Light and include the following information: background information on the respective site; the nature and extent of site contamination; public health and safety issues; investigation and/or cleanup plans, processes, and schedules; local impacts during cleanup activities; and contact information for public inquiries. These Community Updates were periodically posted in locations close to the Newhalem Penstock site during implementation of the time-critical removal action, primarily during site work in May and June 2017 when helicopters were being used within an area of high visitation. The most recent Community Updates are available on the site websites.
- On March 8, 2017, the NPS released the administrative record for the Newhalem Penstock Site and made it available to the public for a 30-day comment period that extended through April 7, 2017. The administrative record is a file that contains all the information used by NPS to make its decision on the selection of the response action. The availability of the administrative record for the Newhalem Penstock site was announced in the Skagit Valley Herald. This notice included the following information: a brief description of the administrative record, a list of the locations the public can access this record, a request for public comments, and instructions for how to comment on the administrative record. Following the public comment period, the NPS reviewed comments received, prepared a responsiveness summary (a report that includes written response to significant public comments received during the public comment period), and added this summary to the administrative record file.
- In conjunction with the release of the administrative record, in March 2017, the NPS established two site information repositories for the Newhalem Penstock Site, related to the time-critical removal action, and placed a copy of the administrative record file in each location. An information repository is a location open to members of the public where they may review and make copies of documents (including the administrative record file) relevant to the site. The addresses, contact information, and operating hours for the information repositories are provided in Appendix B.



- In August 2017, the NPS also established two site information repositories for the Ladder Creek Settling Tank site, related to the time-critical removal action, and placed a copy of the administrative record file in each location. The addresses, contact information, and operating hours for the information repositories are provided in Appendix B.
- On October 2, 2017, the NPS formally released the administrative record for the Ladder Creek Settling Tank Site and made it available to the public for a 30-day comment period that extended through October 31, 2017. The administrative record is a file that contains all information used by the lead agency to make its decision on the selection of a response action. The availability of the administrative record for the Ladder Creek Settling Tank Site was announced in the Skagit Valley Herald and Concrete Herald. This notice included the following information: a brief description of the administrative record, a list of the locations the public can access this record, a request for public comments, and instructions for how to comment on the administrative record. Following the public comment period, the NPS reviewed comments received, prepared a responsiveness summary (a report that includes written response to significant public comments received during the public comment period), and added this summary to the administrative record file.

3.3 Community Concerns and Needs

Identifying community concerns and issues is a vital step in the CIP's development, and it is important that the public be asked for recommendations on how NPS can most effectively involve and communicate with the community. To identify community concerns and needs and to identify how and when citizens would like to be involved in the cleanup process, in August 2017, NPS conducted community interviews with local officials, community residents, and various agencies and organizations who represent a range of opinions and backgrounds. NPS asked interviewees for suggestions of additional groups or individuals NPS should interview, and NPS contacted those suggested additional groups and individuals before developing this CIP. An interview response summary is provided below, and a list of interview questions is provided in Appendix C, Community Interview Questionnaire.

NPS conducted a total of five community interviews with representatives from the following stakeholder groups:

- Seattle City Light
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
- North Cascades Institute

The NPS obtained much of the information in Section 3.0, Community Background, from the community interviews.



All interviewees reported overall support for addressing and responding to existing contamination at these Sites and expressed at least some degree of trust in NPS and SCL to adhere to laws and policies and procedures in pursuing appropriate response actions on-site and to ensure any contaminants are contained before, during, and after removal. However, only those who worked for SCL were aware of environmental issues at all three Sites, and those who worked for North Cascades Institute were only previously aware of the Diablo Dry Dock site. Other interviewees were generally unaware of any environmental concerns regarding these Sites except that one interviewee reported that they had assumed some level of contamination at the Newhalem Penstock site given the presence of cleaning stations during SCL's replacement of the saddles on-site. This same interviewee had also been to the Ladder Creek Settling Tank site after the 2015 Goodell Fire and had seen the condition of the site.

Overall, most interviewees expressed a low awareness of and interest in the Newhalem Penstock and Ladder Creek Settling Tank sites, except for any potential impacts these Sites could have on human health (namely drinking water). The only interviewees with a higher awareness of these two sites – employees of SCL whose awareness of the Sites related directly to the employee's work on-site or in providing services for the site – also expressed little interest in or concern about the presence of contaminants on-site. The interviewees attributed this lack of concern to most staffs' direct or indirect involvement in a response action and their high degree of trust in the laws and regulations and procedures that SCL adheres to for every project prior to on-site work, including review by experts in human and environmental health.

The only interviewees who expressed medium to high interest in the Diablo Dry Dock site were employees of North Cascades Institute who also expressed some awareness of contaminants at the Diablo Dry Dock site due to an on-site evaluation prior to construction of the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center in 2003 – when SCL expressed some concern about the fire risk at the Dry Dock due to materials used in its structure. These interviewees were also aware of the recent findings of contaminants in the soil and expressed a high level of interest in how these contaminants may affect air quality and human health (particularly given the site is so close to the cafeteria at the Environmental Learning Center) and water quality and environmental health (particularly given the sensitivity of wildlife in and around Diablo Reservoir). Interviewees who work for North Cascades Institute also expressed interest in how any response action would be conducted, as it will undoubtedly affect operations at the Environmental Learning Center, and how the site would be left as North Cascades Institute could be interested in using that space for visitors in the future, particularly if the Dry Dock structure is no longer standing.

With regards to the Newhalem Penstock site and Ladder Creek Falls site, the only concerns any of the interviewees identified were related potential drinking water contamination. However, one interviewee from North Cascades Institute mentioned that it might be helpful to know more about the site, specifically if the response action(s) could affect visitors. This interviewee wanted



this information so staff at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center can respond effectively to any questions they receive from the public. Two interviewees reported that they were not concerned with increased traffic or helicopter noises, as these uses are typical of the Highway 20 corridor in the Newhalem and Diablo areas.

Most concerns and needs identified within the interviews related to the Diablo Dry Dock site. Several concerns were related to the future plans for the Diablo Dry Dock structure and its associated facilities. While one interviewee expressed concern about the removal of this historic structure and removal of other historic structures in the area, two other interviewees expressed concern about the safety of the structure if it is left standing. All three interviewees were interested in what mitigations SCL may propose should they seek to remove this building. Interviewees from North Cascades Institute expressed a need to participate and coordinate with the development of mitigations as these decisions can impact programs on campus. Interviewees from North Cascades Institute also expressed interest in knowing more information about the history of the site and the extent of the contaminants of concern. These interviewees were generally concerned about the potential level of impacts on-site and how any response action would be implemented. Specifically, they were concerned that during the response action, contaminants could be either spread into the lake, contaminating water within Deer Creek Cove, or become airborne causing impacts to air quality and contaminating food products at the cafeteria. While these interviewees expressed trust in the process, they also requested information about the resulting condition of the site and safety in public access to and within Deer Creek Cove. Interviewees also expressed an interest in assisting with the restoration of the site (such as helping to revegetate the area once removal is complete). It was also clear from these interviews that any response action will need to be closely coordinated with staff at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center to minimize impacts on operations there.

None of the interviewees identified community needs related to translation services; disability services; technical assistance services; or limitations in accessing electronic communications.

All interviewees identified email as the best way to receive information, though one interviewee also suggested two newspapers: the Skagit Valley Herald and Concrete Herald, as well as Facebook and Instagram for disseminating information to a wider audience. Interviewees also thought it was important to have a key contact with knowledge of the response action(s) who could answer questions as they arise. Interviewees who work for North Cascades Institute requested that NPS host two separate meetings with staff from North Cascades Institute – one to gather input on the selection of the response action (focused more on leadership and program leads, etc.) and another meeting once implementation is imminent to inform staff about the project schedule and ensure and/or establish ongoing communication and coordination between SCL and operations at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center. Interviewees who work for SCL reported that SCL will handle its own internal notifications for staff and families



that may be affected by any of the response actions. Most interviewees wanted information at significant milestones related to the removal actions. However, they suggested more regular notifications regarding the Diablo Dry Dock site may be necessary depending on how the response action may affect visitors and operations at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center.

Public meetings were not identified as an effective communication tool with the community. If anything, at least two interviewees thought public meetings would not be helpful.

4.0 PLANNED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

As noted earlier, the key objectives of the community involvement program are to establish and encourage communication between NPS and the community and provide opportunities for the public to provide input throughout the course of CERCLA response activities at the Sites. The following methods and techniques, which are selected based in part on community interview responses, will be used to promote public participation and establish steps to provide timely information to interested citizens, agency staff, government officials, the media, and the community at large. The first part of this section describes each community involvement activity, and the second part provides a list of upcoming community involvement activities.

***Important:** Upon request, NPS will endeavor to meet identified needs for translation, access to electronic communications, disability access, or other accommodations for people with special needs.*

4.1 Communication Methods and Community Involvement Activities

- **Site Spokesperson**

Ashley Rawhouser, Chief of Resource Management, North Cascades National Park Service Complex, is the designated NPS spokesperson who will inform the community of actions taken, respond to inquiries, provide information concerning the sites, and act as liaison between the NPS and community members, environmental groups, government officials, the media, and other interested parties. See Appendix D for contact information.

- **Administrative Record File and Information Repository**

There are two administrative record files for each site which contain environmental reports and other information that NPS considers or relies upon in the response action selection for each site. There is also an information repository for each site that contains all the information regarding that site. Throughout the cleanup process NPS regularly updates the information repositories and updates to the administrative records are made if deemed appropriate. See Appendix B for administrative record file and information repository details.



- **Public Comment Periods**

While NPS accepts comments on ongoing response activities from the public at any time, at certain times a formal public comment period will be provided. A public comment period is a formal time period during which the NPS accepts comments from the public on specific proposed actions, administrative records, and decision documents. Generally, public comment periods last for 30 days, although they may be longer. Upon timely request (preferably to the site spokesperson and in writing) during any public comment period, the NPS will extend the public comment period by a minimum of 15 days. In addition, upon request, the NPS will meet identified needs for translation, access to electronic communications, or other accommodations for persons with special needs. (See Public Notices, below).

The NPS will formally notify the community of public comment periods through several means:

- The NPS will publish notice of public comment periods in the Skagit Valley Herald and Concrete Herald.
- The NPS will place notice of public comment periods on the site websites.
- The NPS will notify individuals listed on the Interested Parties Mailing List.

Following the public comment period, the NPS will review comments received, prepare a responsiveness summary (a report that includes written response to significant public comments received during the public comment period), and add this summary to the administrative record file. See Section 4.2 for a list of upcoming public comment periods.

Prior public comment periods are described in Section 3.2, Community Involvement.

- **Public Notices**

The NPS will issue public notices to inform the community and the general public of public events, release of documents for public review and comment, and major site milestones.

Based on identified community preferences and the subject of the announcement, NPS will select from the following methods to distribute public notices about the site which are described in further detail below:

- Public Notice in the Skagit Valley Herald and Concrete Herald.
- Site websites, listed in the Site Website section below.
- Notice sent to the Interested Parties Mailing List.
- Park postings as described in Park Visitor Communication.

See Section 4.2 for a list of upcoming public notices.



Prior public notices are described in Section 3.2, Community Involvement.

➤ **News Releases/Newspaper Contacts**

During the CIP interviews, interviewees identified the Skagit Valley Herald and the Concrete Herald as their preferred options for receiving newspaper notices. Because of this, efforts will be made to maintain regular contact with the appropriate reporter to ensure that factual and consistent project information is available to the newspaper when needed.

News releases will be issued to these newspapers as required to ensure the distribution of accurate and timely information.

➤ **Site Websites**

NPS has established a website for each site on which it will post general site information. The site-specific websites are as follows:

- Newhalem Penstock Site:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/NewhalemPenstockEECA>
- Ladder Creek Settling Tank Site:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/CERCLALadderCreekSettlingTank>
- Diablo Dry Dock Site:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/CERCLADiabloDryDock>

➤ **Interested Parties Mailing List**

NPS maintains an interested-party mailing list that includes local officials; selected agency staff; community organizations; media contacts; and interested community members, as appropriate. NPS notifies the parties on the list whenever documents are released to the public for comment and review or the status of the site changes. In accordance with NPS's sustainability efforts, whenever possible mailings will be sent electronically by email, with hyperlinks to documents posted on the website. However, interested parties can request conventional mail delivery if access to electronic communication is not available. In such cases, the NPS will send a letter informing interested parties of the availability of documents at the information repositories.

Efforts are ongoing to expand the mailing list. Individuals can be added to the mailing list by contacting the site spokesperson (See Appendix D for contact information). NPS also offers sign-up opportunities at public meetings, when held. The NPS updates the mailing list as appropriate to reflect changes in government representatives and other contacts. Note that contact information for



private individuals on the list will be kept confidential to protect the personal information of those individuals.

➤ **Community Updates**

Community Updates are brief documents to inform the community about the site and the environmental investigation and cleanup process. Community Updates present information about site history; the nature and extent of site contamination; public health and safety issues; investigation and/or cleanup plans, processes, and schedules; and local impacts during cleanup activities. Community Updates also provide contact information for public inquiries.

The NPS or SCL will prepare Community Updates at key milestones in the cleanup process. The most recent Community Updates for each site are available on the site websites, Community Fact Sheets and Community Updates are available on the site-specific websites listed in the Site Website section above.

NPS will distribute Community Updates to the public using the following means:

- Posting Community Updates on the respective site website listed in the Site Website section above
- Sending a notice to persons on the Interested Parties Mailing List with either a hyperlink to (for email notices) or a copy (for regular mail notices) of the Community Update
- Posting Community Updates at Park location at or near the sites as described in the Park Visitor Communication section above

➤ **Park Visitor Communication**

Based on discussions held during the community interviews, NPS has determined the most effective ways to provide site information to Park visitors will be to use the following methods:

- Posted notices located at the Newhalem Visitor Center and at key access points to the Sites, namely:
 - Newhalem Penstock site: Various access points to/within the Newhalem Trail System; Newhalem Campground bulletin boards
 - Ladder Creek Settling Tank site: Sign at the pedestrian bridge across the Skagit River to Ladder Creek Falls and the Gorge Powerhouse
 - Diablo Dry Dock site: Visitor contact station at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center; bulletin board at the parking lot to the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center
- Park website
- Site specific websites listed in the Site Website section below



- Informed Park staff (with sufficient information to address visitor questions)

Posted items will briefly explain the purpose of the project, what visitors may see or hear in the area, safety concerns (if any), and sources for additional information, including the site spokesperson and contact information.

- **Public Meetings**

To date, no public meetings have been conducted or identified for these sites, and no interviewees identified this as a preferred method of communication. However, public meetings may be scheduled to communicate directly with the public about key site milestones. Public meetings are usually fairly structured forums that are open to the general public, including both affected and unaffected parties. Public meetings typically include an NPS staff presentation followed by a question, answer, and comment session. Based on identified community preferences, if held, public meetings could be held at the Newhalem Visitor Center, Currier Hall in Newhalem, and/or North Cascades Environmental Learning Center. Virtual public meetings may also be conducted. Also, based on identified community preferences, public meetings will generally be held on weekdays in the early evening, and will be announced as described in the Public Notices section above.

Public meetings held during the formal public comment period will be recorded and transcribed, and the transcript will be made available in the administrative record file. As noted above in the Public Comment Period section, NPS responses to significant oral or written comments made during a public meeting (“responsiveness summary”) will be compiled and placed in the administrative record file. NPS will take steps to accommodate any requests made for a translator as well as those for individuals with special needs, as appropriate.

In addition to the structured public meetings, as appropriate, NPS may hold public briefings prior to field work to inform the public of the nature, scheduling, and likely impacts of the upcoming activities, as well as to receive any suggestions on alleviating such impacts.

- **Community Organization Presentations**

During the CIP interviews, the North Cascades Institute requested two meetings with staff at the Environmental Learning Center related to the Diablo Dry Dock site. One meeting to update key staff on the proposed response action as well as provide a forum for comment during the public comment period for the EE/CA, and another presentation for all staff notifying them of the details regarding the response action once it is selected



and scheduled for implementation. These presentations will occur as requested and could be scheduled during the all-staff weekly meeting.

If requested, NPS will meet with or provide information to other interested community organizations. Interested community organizations can discuss community organization presentations by calling or emailing the site spokesperson at the contact information provided in Appendix D, Contact Information.

There have not been any community organization presentations related to these sites.

- **Contact Information**

NPS contact information will be included in Community Updates, public notices, news releases, and on the Sites websites. Contact information for NPS representatives as well as for other key individuals is provided in Appendix D, Contact Information.

- **Community Involvement Plan Revision**

To remain flexible and able to respond to the evolving needs of the community and changes to the Sites, this CIP will be reviewed and revised as needed and posted on each Site's website. As the response actions progress, NPS staff may identify and use additional means or activities to inform and engage the community.

4.2 Upcoming Community Involvement Activities

- The NPS selected the above methods and activities to engage and inform the community regarding the Sites and activities at each site. This section provides a list of upcoming activities.
- **Ongoing Activities**
 - Respond to citizen inquiries and requests
 - Maintain the administrative record files and information repositories
 - Publish the Newhalem Penstock EE/CA for public review and comment
 - Publish the Newhalem Penstock Non-Time-Critical Removal Action Administrative Record for public review and comment
 - Publish the Diablo Dry Dock EE/CA for public review and comment
 - Publish the Diablo Dry Dock Administrative Record for public review and comment
 - Respond to public review and comments
 - Maintain the Interested Parties Mailing List
 - Maintain park visitor communications
 - Community updates
 - Maintain site websites



- **Ladder Creek Settling Tank Site – Site Close Out (Fall 2022 and Winter 2022/23)**
 - Close out the site after trash from the removal action is picked up.
- **Newhalem Penstock – Finalize EE/CA Report and Administrative Record and Submit Both for Public Review (Winter 2022/23)**
 - Finalize the EE/CA and the Administrative Record.
 - Announce availability of and initiate **30-day formal public comment period** for the EE/CA and the Administrative Record via a *Public Notice* in the Skagit Valley Herald and Concrete Herald and post notices on the site website. The press release will provide a brief description of the EE/CA and its findings; announce its availability for review; list dates of the 30-day public comment period; identify a contact person; list the locations where the document can be reviewed; and identify where written comments should be sent.
 - Create and post a *Community Update* regarding the release of the EE/CA – send with the press release to the Skagit Valley Herald and Concrete Herald and post notice on the site website. Email update to interested parties mailing list.
 - After the close of the public comment period, prepare a written response to significant comments received during the public comment period (*responsiveness summary*); consider and respond to significant comments submitted before the public comment period, as appropriate; place any such responses into the administrative record file.
 - After public review and comment update the *Administrative Record* containing the EE/CA in the two *public information repositories*.
- **Newhalem Penstock Site – Draft and Approve Action Memo to Authorize Non-Time-Critical Removal Action – if appropriate (2023)**
 - Once approved, place action memorandum in the two *public information repositories*.
 - Announce availability of Action Memo via a *Community Update* – email to interested-parties email list (as well as anyone who commented on the draft EE/CA).
- **Newhalem Penstock Site – Implementation of Non-Time Critical Removal Action – if appropriate and approved (2023)**
 - Create and post *Community Updates* at project milestones, including: the initiation and completion of on-site work for each phase of the response action. Post these notices on the site website and email update to *interested parties mailing list*. Consider posting some information to the *park website* and/or *Facebook page* if and when visitor use may be impacted.
- **Diablo Dry Dock Site – Draft EE/CA Report (2023)**
 - Draft *EE/CA* and place in the two *public information repositories* identified in Appendix B.
 - Announce availability of and initiate **30-day formal public comment period** for the EE/CA via a *Press Release* in the Skagit Valley Herald and Concrete Herald



and post notice on the Site website. The press release will provide a brief description of the EE/CA and its findings; announce its availability for review; list dates of the 30-day public comment period; identify a contact person; list the locations where the document can be reviewed; and identify where written comments should be sent.

- Create and post a *Community Update* regarding the release of the EE/CA – send with the public notice to the Skagit Valley Herald and Concrete Herald and post notice on the Site website. Email update to interested parties mailing list.
- Host a meeting with staff from the North Cascades Institute (and possibly open to public) at the Environmental Learning Center to inform them of the proposed response actions and obtain input.
- After the close of the public comment period, prepare a written response to significant comments received during the public comment period (*responsiveness summary*); consider and respond to significant comments submitted before the public comment period, as appropriate; place any such responses into the administrative record file.
- **Diablo Dry Dock Site – Finalize EE/CA Report (2023)**
 - Finalize *EE/CA* and place in the two public *information repositories* identified in Appendix B.
 - Announce availability of responsiveness summary and Final EE/CA via a *Community Update* – email to interested-parties email list (as well as anyone who commented on the draft EE/CA) and post update to Site website.
- **Diablo Dry Dock Site – Draft and Approve Action Memo to Authorize Non-Time-Critical Removal Action – if appropriate (2023)**
 - Once approved, place action memorandum in the two public *information repositories* identified in Appendix B.
 - Announce availability of Action Memo via a *Community Update* – email to interested-parties email list (as well as anyone who commented on the draft EE/CA) and post update to Site website.
 - Host a presentation at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center regarding the removal action.
- **Diablo Dry Dock Site – Implementation of Non-Time Critical Removal Action – if appropriate (2023-2024)**
 - Announce the initiation of on-site work via a *Press Release* that is shared with the Skagit Valley Herald and Concrete Herald and post on the site website.
 - Create and post *Community Updates* at key project milestones, including:
 - the initiation and completion of on-site work for each phase of the response action and anytime the construction schedule changes. These may need to be weekly for North Cascades Institute, at least at key times within the project schedule if construction will conflict with NCI programs on the campus of the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center.



- Post these notices on the site website and email update to interested parties mailing list.
- Consider posting some information to the park website and/or Facebook page when visitor use may be impacted.

5.0 REFERENCES

National Park Service (NPS). *Community Involvement Requirements and Best Practices*. 2014. Available at <https://connect.doi.gov/nps/csportal>.

National Park Service (NPS). nd. Visitor Use Statistics for Ross Lake National Recreation Area: *Annual Park Recreation Visitation and Monthly Public Use Report*. Accessed August 24, 2017. Available at <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/Reports/Park/ROLA>

United States Census Bureau, 2016. Quick facts for Whatcom County, WA. Accessed August 24, 2017. Available at [https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045216?](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045216?_lang=en)

United States Department of the Interior (USDOJ). Environmental Compliance Memorandum No. ECM 14-2: *Central Hazardous Materials Fund (CHF) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Process for CHF Projects*. May 2014. Available at <http://www.doi.gov/pmb/oepc/upload/ECM-14-2-CERCLA-Process-for-CHF-Projects.pdf>.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). *Superfund Community Involvement Handbook*. Apr. 2005. Available at http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/cag/pdfs/ci_handbook.pdf.

USEPA. *Community Involvement Toolkit*. Available at <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/toolkit.htm>.



APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

Definitions for CERCLA-related words found throughout the CIP are provided below.

Administrative Record File: A file that contains all information considered or relied upon by the lead agency to make its decision on the selection of a response action under CERCLA. See Appendix B, Administrative Record File, and Information Repository Details, for further information on the Site administrative record file.

CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act): A federal law, commonly known as “Superfund,” which Congress enacted in 1980 and amended in 1986 and 2002. The law provides broad federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or welfare or the environment; establishes the categories of persons who are liable for such releases; and outlines a framework for investigating and responding to releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances where the lead agency determines it is necessary. CERCLA generally authorizes three types of cleanup actions: emergency response actions, removal actions, and remedial actions.

Cleanup: Used in this document to describe actions taken to address a release or threat of a release of hazardous substances, pursuant to CERCLA, that could affect public health or welfare or the environment. The word “cleanup” is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms remedial action, removal action, response action, remedy, remediation, or corrective action.

Community Interview: Interviews conducted by the lead agency as part of the process of preparing a Community Involvement Plan. For most response actions, the NCP requires the lead agency to conduct community interviews to determine appropriate activities to ensure public involvement in Site-related decisions.

Community Involvement Plan (CIP): A plan that explains how NPS intends to enable meaningful community involvement throughout the cleanup process by specifying planned community involvement activities to address community needs, concerns, and expectations identified through community interviews and other means.

Hazardous Substance: Any one of the more than 800 substances defined under CERCLA and the NCP as potentially posing a threat to human health or the environment. Hazardous substances include materials defined as ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as well as additional substances listed under the Clean Water Act and hazardous air pollutants listed under the Clean Air Act.

Information Repository: A location open to members of the general public where a collection of documents (including the administrative record file) relevant to a particular CERCLA Site is made available for public review and copying. See Appendix B, Administrative Record File, and

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Information Repository Details, for the locations and addresses of the information repositories for all three Sites included in this CIP.

Lead Agency: The government agency with the primary authority to investigate, plan and implement a response action under CERCLA and the NCP at a particular site.

National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP): More commonly called the National Contingency Plan or NCP, it is the federal government's regulatory blueprint for responding to both oil spills and releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances. The NCP is the result of our country's efforts to develop a national response capability and promote overall coordination among the hierarchy of responders and contingency plans. The regulations, published at 40 C.F.R. Part 300, detail how CERCLA is to be implemented.

Non-Time-Critical Removal Action (NTCRA): A removal action conducted when the lead agency determines that there is a planning period of at least six months before on-site activities must be initiated.

Notice of Availability: A formal notice announcing the issuance and public availability of a document (e.g., proposed plan) or documents (e.g., the administrative record file or updates thereto). A Notice of Availability is also issued when the information repositories are established. The notice may also announce commencement of a public comment period.

Proposed Plan: A document summarizing the cleanup alternatives analyzed in the feasibility study that also describes the lead agency's preferred alternative. This document is made available for public review and comment.

Public Comment Period: A period during which the public can formally review and comment on various documents and proposed response actions.

Removal Action: A type of CERCLA response action with a streamlined planning process. A removal action is conducted to address all or a part of a release or threatened release of hazardous substances when the release requires an expedited, time-critical response, or when the release is of limited size and complexity such that streamlined response planning is appropriate. There are two types of removal actions – time-critical and non-time-critical; sometimes emergency response actions (undertaken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) are referred to as removal actions. The term refers both to the entire removal response action, as well as just the cleanup phase of such an action.

Response Action: The most general CERCLA term used to describe any action taken to respond to a release or threatened release of hazardous substances to protect the public health or welfare or the environment. The term includes all phases of the response, from investigation through



monitoring and even enforcement activities. There are generally three types of CERCLA response actions that may be undertaken by NPS as the lead agency: time-critical removal actions, non-time-critical removal actions, and remedial actions. The response action at Ladder Creek Settling Tank Site is a time critical removal action; the response action at Diablo Dry Dock is a non-time critical removal action; and there is both a time critical removal action and a non-time-critical removal action at Newhalem Penstock.

Responsiveness Summary: Document summarizing the significant comments received during a public comment period and documenting the lead agency's responses to the comments.

Site: There are three Sites included in this CIP: Newhalem Penstock, Ladder Creek Settling Tank, and Diablo Dry Dock, which together comprise three areas contaminated or potentially contaminated by a release or threatened release of hazardous substances. See section 1.1 for maps of these three Sites.

Time-Critical Removal Action (TCRA): A removal action conducted when the lead agency determines that there is not a planning period of at least six months before on-site activities must be initiated.



APPENDIX B: ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD FILE AND INFORMATION REPOSITORY DETAILS

The administrative record files for all three Sites are maintained at two locations, which may be reviewed at the following information repositories during the hours indicated:

North Cascades National Park Service Complex Headquarters
810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Tuesday – Friday: 8:00 am – Noon and 1:00 to 4:00 pm

North Cascades National Park Service Complex Marblemount Ranger Station
7280 Ranger Station Rd., Marblemount, WA 98267
Monday – Thursday: 8:00 am to 5:30 pm

For more information contact: Ashley Rawhouser, ashley.rawhouser@nps.gov, 360-325-2269.



APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Site-Related Questions

1. Are you familiar with the environmental issues and investigation activities taking place at the Newhalem Penstock, Ladder Creek Settling Tank and/or Diablo Dry Dock Sites?
2. If so, what do you know about the Site(s) and when and how did you first become aware of the issue(s)?
3. What are your current concerns about the Sites and any past or proposed cleanup activities at the Site(s)? What about other members of your organization?

Community Involvement Questions

4. Would you and your organization like to be involved in future activities? If so, how would you like to be involved?
5. What would enable you to feel fully engaged in the cleanup of the Site? How can we support each other in making this happen?
6. What kind of information about the Site investigation and cleanup activities do you want or need?
7. How can we best provide you, your organization, or the community with this information? Newsletters? Community Meetings? Community updates? Internet? News media? Public notices? Other?
8. If a particular news source is desired: which forms of news media do you, your organization, or community reference and trust most?
9. If community meetings are desired: do you or your group members have a preference for meeting locations and times?
10. If public postings or notices are desired: where are the best places to post signs or notices about activities and events?
11. How often do you want to get information about what is going on at the Site? (Weekly? Monthly? Quarterly? Only when something significant happens?)
12. Are you interested in being on the Interested Parties Mailing List to receive information updates on environmental cleanup activities at the Site? If so, can we confirm your address (and email address)?
13. Can you suggest other individuals or groups that should be contacted for additional information or added to the Interested Parties Mailing List?

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APPENDIX D: CONTACT INFORMATION AND INTERESTED PARTIES

The NPS will update contact information as necessary.

Site-Specific Contacts

For information about Site cleanup activities, please contact:

	Park Contact, Site Spokesperson
Name:	Ashley Rawhouser
Title:	Chief of Natural Resources Management
Organization:	National Park Service, North Cascades National Park Service Complex
Address:	810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Phone:	360-325-2269

	NPS Region Contact
Name:	Gary Riley
Title:	Regional Environmental Program Manager
Organization:	Pacific West Region, National Park Service
Address:	333 Bush Street Suite 500 San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone:	206-681-7446

Elected Official Contacts

Federal Elected Officials

	Senator	Senator
Name:	Maria Cantwell	Patty Murray
Title:	Washington State Senator	Washington State Senator
Address:	2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 9B Everett, WA 98201	2930 Wetmore Avenue, Ste. 9D Everett, Washington 98201
Phone:	(425) 303-0114	(425) 259-6515
Website:	https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/	https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/

	House Representative
Name:	Rick Larsen
Title:	Washington State Second District Representative
Address:	2030 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 9F, Everett, WA 98201
Phone:	(425) 252-3188
Website:	https://larsen.house.gov

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Washington State Elected Officials

	Governor	State Senator
Name:	Jay Inslee	Simon Sefzik
Title:	Governor	Senator
Address:	PO Box 40002, Olympia, WA 98504-0002	P.O. Box 40442, Olympia, WA 98504
Phone:	360-902-4111	(360) 786-7682
Website:	http://www.governor.wa.gov	https://simonsefzik.src.wastateleg.org/

	State House Representative	State House Representative
Name:	Alicia Rule	Sharon Shewmake
Title:	District 42 Representative	District 42 Representative
Address:	JLOB 334 PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504-0600	JLOB 310 PO Box 40600 Olympia WA 98504-0600
Phone:	(360) 746-3744	(360) 746-6939
Website:	https://housedemocrats.wa.gov/rule/	https://housedemocrats.wa.gov/shewmake/

Federal Agencies

	EPA Region 10	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Address:	1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900 Seattle, WA 98101	510 Desmond Dr. SE, Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98503
Phone:	206-553-1200	360-753-4325

	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration -National Marine Fisheries Service
Address:	P.O. Box 3755 Seattle, WA 98124-3755	7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115
Phone:	360-734-3156	206-526-4744

Washington State Agencies

	Washington State Department of Natural Resources – Northwest Regional Office	State of Washington Department of Ecology - Northwest Regional Office
Address:	919 N Township Street Sedro Woolley, WA 98284	3190 160th Ave. Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
Phone:	360-856-3500	425-649-7000



	Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	Washington State Department of Transportation
Address:	P.O. Box 48343, Olympia, WA 98504-8343	PO Box 47358, Olympia, WA, 98504-7358
Phone:	360-586-3065	360-705-7850

Local Agencies

	Seattle City Light	Whatcom County - Environmental Health Department
Address:	700 5th Avenue, Suite 3200, P.O. Box 34023, Seattle, WA 98124-4023	509 Girard Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
Phone:	206-386-9168	360-676-6724

Indian Nations or Tribes

	Upper Skagit Indian Tribe	Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
Address:	25944 Community Plaza Way Sedro-Woolley, WA 98184-9739	5318 Chief Brown Lane, Darrington, WA 98241
Phone:	360-854-7090	360-436-0131

	Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Address:	11430 Moorage Way, La Conner, WA 98257
Phone:	360-466-3163

Local School District and Schools

	Concrete School District
Address:	45389 Airport Way, Concrete, WA 98237
Phone:	360-853-8141

Community Organizations and Environmental Groups

	North Cascades Conservation Council	North Cascades Institute
Address:	P.O. Box 95980 Seattle, WA 98145-2980	810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Phone:	N/A	(360) 854-2599
Website:	http://www.northcascades.org/wordpress/	https://ncascades.org/

Neighboring Properties

	Seattle City Light
Address:	700 5th Avenue, Suite 3200, P.O. Box 34023, Seattle, WA 98124-4023
Phone:	206-386-9168

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Media

Newspapers

	Skagit Valley Herald	Concrete Herald
Title:	Newspaper Editor	Publisher and Editor
Link:	http://www.goskagit.com/	http://www.concrete-herald.com/
Contact Name:	Colette Weeks	Jason Miller
Contact Address:	P.O. Box 578 Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5624	P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237
Contact Phone:	360-424-3251	360-853-8213
Contact Email:	cweeks@skagitpublishing.com	editor@concrete-herald.com

Radio Stations

	KSVU 90.1 FM
Link:	http://www.ksvu.org/ksvu.org/Home.html
Contact Name:	Erma Baude
Contact Address:	7838 S Superior Ave, Concrete, WA 98237
Contact Phone:	360-853-8588
Contact Email:	ermabaude@frontier.com



APPENDIX F: NCP COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The NCP specifies the following community involvement requirements for the time critical removal actions at the Newhalem Penstock and Ladder Creek Settle Tank Sites and the non-time critical removal actions at Newhalem Penstock and Diablo Dry Dock Sites:

Removal Actions

Time-Critical Removal Action

Required When	Requirement	Citation– 40 C.F.R.
Always	Designate a Site spokesperson.	§ 300.415(n)(1)
If <u>less than</u> a six-month planning period and <u>more than</u> 120 days of on-site removal activities	When the Action Memorandum is signed, establish two information repositories (one at a central location and one at or near the Site), and establish an administrative record file and place in the information repositories.	§ 300.415(n)(3)(iii); § 300.800(a); § 300.805(a)
If <u>less than</u> a six-month planning period and <u>more than</u> 120 days of on-site removal activities	Within 60 days of the start of on-site removal activities, publish notice of availability of the information repository and the administrative record file in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.415(n)(2)(ii); § 300.820(b)(1)
If <u>less than</u> a six-month planning period and <u>more than</u> 120 days of on-site removal activities	As appropriate, provide a public comment period of at least 30 days from the time the administrative record file is made available.	§ 300.415(n)(3)(iii); § 300.820(b)(2)
If <u>less than</u> a six-month planning period and <u>more than</u> 120 days of on-site removal activities	After the close of the public comment period, prepare a written response to significant comments received during the public comment period; consider and respond to significant comments submitted before the public comment period, as appropriate; place any such responses into the administrative record file.	§ 300.415(n)(3)(iii); § 300.820(b)(2)
If <u>less than</u> a six-month planning period and <u>more than</u> 120 days of on-site removal activities	Within 120 days of the start of on-site removal activities, conduct community interviews.	§ 300.415(n)(3)(i)
If <u>less than</u> a six-month planning period and <u>more than</u> 120 days of on-site removal activities	Within 120 days of the start of on-site removal activities, prepare a Community Involvement Plan.	§ 300.415(n)(3)(ii)

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Non-Time-Critical Removal Action

Required When	Requirement	Citation– 40 C.F.R.
Always	Designate a Site spokesperson.	§ 300.415(n)(1)
No later than when the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Approval Memorandum is signed	Establish two information repositories (one at a central location and one at or near the Site) and establish an administrative record file and place in the information repositories.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(i); § 300.800(a); § 300.805(a)
No later than when the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Approval Memorandum is signed	Publish notice of availability of the information repositories and the administrative record file in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(i); § 300.820(a)(1)
Prior to completion of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis	Conduct community interviews.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(i)
Prior to completion of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis	Prepare and issue a Community Involvement Plan.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(i)
Upon completion of Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis and publication of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Report	Publish notice of availability and brief description of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Report in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(ii); § 300.820(a)(1)
Upon completion of Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis and publication of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Report	Provide a public comment period of at least 30 days for submission of written and oral comments. Upon timely request during the public comment period, extend the public comment period by a minimum of 15 additional days.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(iii); § 300.820(a)(2)
Upon completion of Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis and publication of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Report	After the close of the public comment period, prepare a written response to significant comments received during the public comment period; consider and respond to significant comments submitted before the public comment period, as appropriate; place any such responses into the administrative record file.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(iv); § 300.820(a)(2)

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