

[REDACTED]
09/19/2010 05:24 PM

To <noca_superintendent@nps.gov>
[REDACTED]

bcc

Subject: COMMENTS ON DRAFT LAND PROTECTION PLAN 2010

ETERNAL MAKE-WORK MANAGEMENT

Micro-management survives, nay, prospers only among bureaucrats. Competition for survival eliminates it from private sectors through strangulation of its practitioners.

The miniscule settlement of Stehekin, Washington is a poster child for bureaucratic insanity and abuse of power.

North Cascade National Park is part of a 10,000 square mile recovery zone. In 1988 a heretofore generally applied wilderness area management practice was made law. In that year, Congress designated 93 percent of the entire North Cascades Complex as the Stephen Mather Wilderness. Only the Highway 20 corridor and Lakes Ross and Chelan have narrow strips of shorelines not designated as wilderness.

In the Lake Chelan Recreation Area, a pimple on the elephant's butt, most all NPS attention and governance centers on 417.47 acres of 167 tracts owned privately. (There are 640 acres per square mile.) Its mismanagement is historic.

"This Land Protection Plan focuses more specifically on protecting the purposes of the public lands primarily by identifying private tracts most at risk from flooding and bank erosion and identifying federal lands possibly suitable for exchange outside the Stehekin River CMZ." It's time for some perspective.

The Lake Chelan canyon was carved out of rock during the glacial periods to a depth of 1,486 feet and 55-miles-long. It partially filled over thousands of years through cycles of ice age and global warming. Floods we cannot imagine the floods that occurred. High water is a yearly occurrence to some degree.

I was sickened seeing dreams, cabins and facilities washed into the Stehekin River because of your senseless policy to let the river run wild, spread out across the valley and then leave resulting debris because it's part of nature now.

Tell me, why in hell are we restoring New Orleans which only differs in scale. Tell me, why do we restore towns and facilities flattened by tornados? Are they not all "part of nature now". You need consistency in practice. What is more important, humans or resources?

I want to expose you to information you apparently have never met. It shows a remarkable difference between you and the Corps of Engineers in defending nature plus prevention and reaction to natural disasters. This is my response to a Wall Street Journal article by [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear Sir:

[REDACTED]
10/11/2010 05:18 PM

To <noca_superintendent@nps.gov>

cc

Subject: Stehekin Plan

Superintendent Jenkins,

Access, access, access. One of my most memorable backpack/climbing trips was from Park Creek to Mt Logan in 2003. I've never been back because of lack of access. Please do whatever it takes to get the road back up that valley so We The Public can have access to OUR Park. Thank you for considering my comments.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02/10/2011 09:22 PM PST
To: Chip Jenkins
Cc: stehekinheritage1@gmail.com
Subject: Our comment letter in response to NPS SRCIP AND LPP

February 9, 2011

North Cascades National Park Service Complex
Attn: Superintendent Palmer Jenkins
810 SR 20
Sedro-Woolley WA 98284

Email: Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov

RE: Draft SRCIP and LPP

Dear Superintendent Jenkins:

As residents of Chelan County since 1975 and property owners at Stehekin for many years, we thank you for this opportunity to comment on the NPS draft plans for SRCIP and LPP. Our family does not want to loose the Stehekin experience to the Park Service. The community of Stehekin existed long before the NPS came into the picture.

We feel that these 2 draft plans should be handled as separate issues and not be under the umbrella of the 'Stehekin River Flood Management Plan'. It seems that years and years go by while "plans" are developed and nothing is ever accomplished. The most important issue is preserving the private community of Stehekin. That can only be accomplished if there is no further net loss of the private land in the valley. We do not want our property included on any land acquisition list. Our house has been standing since the 1920's and it is just fine - we don't need the Park Service to tell us what to do.

To resolve these issues we fully support the Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement as outlined below:

"Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement '
Draft LPP and SRCIP

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.

5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities. See section 5.2

6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in it original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

The items included in this Summary Statement are presented with the intention to support management policies that sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community."

Thank you for reading our comments. We are willing to support all practices that acknowledge and protect the value of private property and the community of Stehekin.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/10/2011 02:38PM

cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Lake Chelan National Recreation Area - NPS Draft Plan

Superintendent Jenkins,

I've been visiting the Stehekin Valley all of my life. From the time I was a little boy until having children of my own, I've had the good fortune of spending a great deal of time in the Valley. As you would probably agree, there's something very special and unique about Stehekin that extends far beyond its natural beauty. The people who make up the Stehekin Community are in large part what make Stehekin such a special place. In my opinion, the community of Stehekin represents a harkening back to a bygone era...something that is rarely lived or experienced...mostly only found in books or in paintings. I urge the National Park Service to support the heritage of the Stehekin Community and ensure its viability for generations to come. The Community is really a living history that helps remind me and my family of the life's true treasures. I look forward to giving my children the same experience I had the fortune to grow up with. In order for that to happen I encourage you to support the recommendations of Stehekin Heritage. These recommendations are summarized below:

- The National Park Service join Chelan County and conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
- Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, that the NPS and Chelan County work to enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
- The Land Protection Plan must state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
- The NPS should continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
- Change all "acquisition" priorities to read "exchange" priorities. See section 5.2. LPP.
- Separate the SRCIP and the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.
- If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river, "Let the River Decide" which pieces are most threatened and need prioritized, and trade only those vulnerable lands. Priority lists would be only for trading purposes. Land trades should be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their original piece with all property rights intact. Value is defined not only by dollar amount but also by potential uses of the original property.
- Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, to harm the road if allowed to erode.
- Remove appendix C – the Overlay District - from the plan.
- Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public

access and recreation. Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

I'm pleased the Park Service has involved the public in this process. I was encouraged when I met you at the Oct 21 st Seattle meeting and you said the NPS uses public feedback to determine management policies. I'm confident the National Park Service will recognize the great importance of the Stehekin Community and agree that it deserves protection and sustainability going forward. A signed hard copy of this letter (also attached) is being sent to your office.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: Senator Linda Evans Parlette
Representative Mike Armstrong
Representative Cary Condotta
Congressmen Doc Hastings
Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 09:33 AM

To "Chip Jenkins" <Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov>

cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject LPP, and Draft SRCIP

To: Superintendent Chip Jenkins February 10, 2011
North Cascades National Park
810 Sedro-Woolley Wa. 98284

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

I am writing in regards to the LPP and Draft SRCIP. I want to thank you and your team for coming to Stehekin to hear our concerns and the extended deadline for comment so that we could further review these documents. My foremost concern is that in the future these documents (Policies) will be used as a lever against the Stehekin community and the further acquisition of private property by the NPS.

It is clear in the founding legislation PL 90-544, that the Community of Stehekin should continue to exist.

In 1981 the GAO published a report "Lands in Lake Chelan Recreation Area should be returned to private ownership".

One of the things this report stated was that the NPS had already purchased too much private property and that purchased lands should be returned to private ownership. It is interesting that in 1981 there was 680 acres of private land down from 1730.

Here is a excerpt taken out of the 1981 GAO report:

Moreover, the Service plans to acquire most of the remaining privately owned land in the recreation area. Interior contends that it was the intent of the Congress that eventually all privately owned land in the recreation area was to be brought into Federal ownership by means of an opportunity (willing seller--willing buyer) purchase program.

My Grandfather came to Stehekin in 1955 and bought the landing from Curt Courtney. My grandmother then ran the landing up until 1969/70 when the NPS compelled her to sell against her will. This is a prime example of past NPS practices, and why we need to assure that they don't happen again.

In a conversation we had over lunch, you said that the NPS is no longer interested in acquiring all of the private land in Stehekin. You have also asked me why some of us who live in Stehekin are so worried about losing our community. Well the excerpt above is just one of many examples. This is why it is so very important that the LPP and SRCIP documents be changed to have wording that protects the community of Stehekin rather than wording that could at some point in our future be used against us. I believe that you stand in a place and time where you can make the changes to prove that it is no longer the goal of the NPS to some day acquire all the private land and effectively eliminate the community of Stehekin. In 1981 we were down to 680 acres from 1730. Today we are down to less than 420 acres. I urge you to adopt an NPS policy of no net loss of private Property or Property Value.

I completely support the position of Stehekin Heritage stated below.

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities. See section 5.2
6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.
8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

My children are 4th generation to live in Stehekin, this is our heritage!
And I want to preserve this heritage for future generations!

Once again I urge you to make the policy changes now to assure a permanent private property base and the continued existence of the Stehekin Community so that a future Superintendent with a different management Philosophy cannot use this document to support any further land acquisition or regulate us out of existence.

I am in good faith taking you at your word from the January 10 meeting that you hear us and that these documents need to be made right. I would be like to be involved in any way I can to help work through this to make it right for the preservation of the Stehekin community.

Thank you for your swift action,
[REDACTED], Stehekin Valley resident

From [REDACTED]
Sent: 02/10/2011 11:24 PM PST
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: Stehekin Heritage

Dear Sir:

I am a co-owner of property on the lake shore at Stehekin. My Father, [REDACTED], built our cabin in 1971. I fully and unconditionally support the recommendations of the Stehekin Heritage group.

Thank You

[REDACTED]

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/10/2011 12:54PM

Subject: Stehekin Heritage

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

Attached is a letter voicing my support of the Stehekin Heritage Foundation's stand on the Land Protection Plan(LPP) and Stehekin River Corridor Implementation (SRCIP). Please take time to read it.

thank you,

[REDACTED]

Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins

810 Washington 20

Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

RE: Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Draft Land Protection Plan 2010 (LPP)

Dear Superintendent Jenkins, February 10, 2011

Although I am relatively new to Stehekin in the sense that it has been a thriving community for well over 100 years, I have come to love it as a home. I first started coming to Stehekin when I met my husband, descendent of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We would come to visit family and friends established over many years during his time spent in the valley. We had the good fortune to move to Stehekin for a year from 2008-2009, living in our shared home across from the Stehekin School, thus allowing our daughters to attend school in Stehekin and experience what it is like to be a child growing up in Stehekin, just like their grandmother. The poignancy of the experience was not lost on our daughters as they look back on it fondly and remember wistfully their year spent in Stehekin.

To not protect the balance of private interest, entrepreneurship, and creativity with wilderness and seclusion, would be a failure to protect for future generations, the uniqueness of Stehekin. It would destroy what makes Stehekin such an attractive and welcoming place today. It would destroy the spirit of Stehekin, that of ingenuity, resourcefulness, creativity, community, and fellowship that make Stehekin such a lovely place, one worthy of our protection.

If we do not protect Stehekin as it is, it will become a dusty museum of how things once were, not a living expression of what they are.

Please cooperate with the suggestions outlined by the Stehekin Heritage Sub-Committee, which I fully support and which is outlined below:

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.

2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.

3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.

4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.

5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities.

6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

With utmost sincerity,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

From [REDACTED]

Date: 02/10/2011 05:42AM

cc: stehekinheritage1@gmail.com

Subject: Draft Response to Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and the Land Protection Plan (LPP)

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

I respectfully submit my response regarding the proposed changes in the Stehekin Valley.
Please find the attached letter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins

810 Washington 20

Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

RE: Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Draft Land Protection Plan 2010 (LPP)

Dear Superintendent Jenkins, 10 February 2011

Although I live abroad and have done so for several years now, my true home is Stehekin.

Stehekin has been my home ever since I was a small child migrating there from southern California to spend time each summer. It is the home of my ancestors as well as some members of my fully alive family today. The character and authentic spirit that resides in the Stehekin valley is absolutely priceless and cannot, indeed MUST NOT be replaced or displaced. Every effort must be made to preserve the fragile balance of seclusion, economy, and fertile ground upon which people of all ages can (and do) grow and thrive.

Stehekin is such a special, irreplaceable corner of the world and what makes it so is the spirit which is visible through the community that lives there. There is just no substitute for that, and by pushing land owners out as you appear to be suggesting, that is exactly what will happen.

Please don't ruin it for future generations. Please cooperate with the suggestions outlined by the Stehekin Heritage Sub-Committee, which I fully support and which is outlined below:

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
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7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

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Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

With utmost sincerity,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/10/2011 03:27PM

Subject: NPS Draft Plans - Stehekin, WA

Dear Superintendent Jenkins:

The community of Stehekin is priceless in its combination of people and pristine beauty. Stehekin would lose its special trademark without the people and businesses that make it unique. I have been visiting Stehekin for almost 15 years, and cannot compare it with any other place in this country. I am in full agreement with the proposals of the Stehekin Heritage committee.

Again, please consider the ill effects of a wrong decision.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/10/2011 06:38AM

cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Official Comments on SRCIP/EIS and LPP due February 11, 2011

Mr. Jenkins,

This is intended to be a followup communication to my letter dated October 29, 2010 regarding the subject draft plans. After my letter to you my Stehekin neighbors, led by Stehekin Heritage, worked long and hard to craft a unified document that I suspect represents much of the Stehekin Community thinking. I support all ten items in the Stehekin Heritage communication to you.

I also attended a meeting in Chelan in January, led by Mike Kaputa from Chelan County, and during that meeting some important information was generated which I would like to share with you and request you include in my official comments.

1. Separating wheat from chaff : When discussing the Stehekin River, its migration, isolated and spotted bank hardening, and current plans to deal with the river: we should keep one clear point in mind. The only way to keep a river from wandering on its own and exercise destructive behavior is to dredge it and keep the banks intact. The Army Corps know this, do this in other places, and routinely keep waterways open and in place using dredging. Since governmental will apparently does not exist to dredge the continuously accumulating silt in the Stehekin River, then piecemeal bank hardening by the National Park Service (NPS) or individual property owners will only temporarily arrest any problem and may make it worse somewhere else in the river. Without dredging the river, there are no long term solutions for any facility or improvement along the river. Why not just be clear in your plan about that? There is no intent to fix the river . The current NPS draft plans to bank harden around some of their riverfront facilities is of marginal return, and short term duration if the riverbed is allowed to continue to fill with silt.

2. Community Footprint: A Government Accounting Office (GAO) Report dated 1981, I believe, stated that the NPS had no business purchasing land in the quantity and manner in which they did between 1968 and the report date. I don't have a copy in hand but reviewed the report in the early 1990's. I recommend inviting the GAO back for an update look at the intervening years to see what they would say now. The Stehekin Valley already has lost too much land base and may not survive.

The items highlighted in my letter and Stehekin Heritage work are worthy of a relook by your staff and even Congress. By your NPS actions, not words, we know you, the NPS. Graph the private property loss to NPS acquisition since 1968 and any graduate of Stehekin School can tell you what the future portends for them in their own community. Look at your fresh draft LPP and see that your acquisition plan leaves only 4.75 acres as LOW Priority. You, the NPS, obviously want us all out of Stehekin.

You seem to offer land swap to get people away from the river but offer only a tiny amount of land to swap. Additionally, the land you offer to swap often comes with covenants which restrict its use.

Restricting its use also restricts the opportunity for Stehekin to survive. What if Tom and Liz Courtney's land had covenants that said he could live there but could have no gas station, no propane, or heavy equipment parked there? Picture trying to live in Stehekin without the support of Tom and Liz Courtney's offerings, and don't forget the Barge. Or, what if the land Cragg and Roberta Courtney own could not hold the equipment he has and uses or have a commercial bakery? How would the valley survive without someone to put in septic systems, dig foundations, open roads, respond to emergencies, etc.? If you restrict land use beyond the county restrictions for private property you economically strangle the community.

If you took either Cragg or Tom Courtney's business out of Stehekin the community would not likely

survive. I call that a fragile community. Your draft plans clearly demonstrate the NPS desire to acquire even more land. Such action continues to be life threatening to the Stehekin Community.

In Summary: Since there is no real intent to fix the river (i.e. dredging silt). you should simply acknowledge that in your plan. Then we have a situation similar to building a dam with a reservoir (like Lake Entiat) or raising Lake Chelan in 1927. You embark on a plan to move people that will be threatened by the rising water. NPS must offer both quantity and quality of property in swap to these people or the community cannot continue to exist. This concept is rather simple actually. Move an entire community or it dies. Just like Entiat business had to move up the hill or go under.

The problem with your draft plans is that you claim to be doing something about the river but avoid the real fix (dredging silt). You also claim to have land for swap but the quantity is minuscule and the restrictions unacceptable.

Additionally, and I speak from personal experience, unless you have a road to protect you will do nothing to protect private property. In the 1990's when we bank hardened the river in front of our house for protection of our family home, the environmental groups and you, the NPS, did not support the bank hardening. After a blood letting law suit the county agreed to remove the authorized work at county expense. After the bank hardening was removed and the river did just what we said it would do; YOUR road was then threatened, the NPS quickly reversed their position and in the name of an emergency aggressively put in seven times the bank hardening that we had originally installed, did it at the exact same location, and all at taxpayer expense. Your own staff member John Reidle was there throughout and can verify every word of the above. You even purchased the rock (declared a contaminant by the EPA when I used it) and put it back in the river in the same spot. I can expand on this story if you desire. Of course, little of the above has to do with you personally. You will be in your position for awhile and then move on. The issues above are with your bureaucracy. We residents must deal with your words in your written plan and the laws of the land because they outlive us all. The Last LPP was done perhaps 16 years ago. When this plan is finalized, the community will have to live and die with it for a long time. If your bureaucracy doesn't want a community in Stehekin then please demonstrate the fortitude to say so and march off. If you do want one, then please put plans in effect that express that and can be leveraged by future generations.

Thank you giving us the chance to comment and for making these remarks an official part of your public feedback.

(PS. [REDACTED] please pass a copy of this to [REDACTED].)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: <Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/10/2011 03:54PM

Subject: Stehekin Management Plan

Chip- Good afternoon to you.

I have reviewed the draft of the Stehekin Management Plan and find parts I agree with and some I am not comfortable with if implemented. I have also reviewed the positions of Stehekin Heritage and their recommended changes.

As a 20 plus year visitors of the Stehekin Valley on our boat, my wife and I have created a close connection with the goings on in Stehekin. We have seen the community at great odds with the Park Service and we have seen a "reconciliation " between the community and the Park Service. Over the years we have we have heard Park Service Goals regarding the Valley community and the wishes of the community. It is our strong opinion that the personal and business community values should be preserved. Stehekin is an important gateway to the southern part of the North Cascades National Park. The preservation of the "community" and their ability to live and do business is central to attracting visitors to the southern reaches of the Park.

With all due respect, my wife and I, after reviewing the positions of Stehekin Heritage, strongly support the position of Stehekin Heritage.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 3:02 PM
To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov
Subject: Re: SRCIP and Draft Land Protection Plan

National Park Service
Attention: Chip Jenkins
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Re: SRCIP and Draft Land Protection Plan

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

Although I do not reside within the Stehekin community, it has been my pleasure to experience the pristine environment through travels by means of the airport. Originally from Texas, I'm sure you can imagine the 'awe' I felt the first time we landed on the airport grounds six and a half years ago. It has been priceless to be able to take a quick airplane flight to the airport and camp in the Harlequin Campground to escape the hustle of the big cities. The community is essential to these visits even though I choose to camp, there is always time for a trip to town for last minute supplies or a shower after a night around the campfire. The people in the community are what make the town special and a reason to come back time and time again. I have met many of the Stehekin residents and made many new friends through these travels. It is very upsetting to think the upcoming changes may affect their land rights, the roads the community travels on, and where the campground is located. The timelessness of the area and the people should be strongly considered. It is the people who make the place special to visit, without the support of the community it would just be another National Park with no real destination provided. As it stands Stehekin is extremely private, pristine, and powerful. Please don't take that away from our future generations and those that have yet to visit.

Please cooperate with the suggestions outlined by the Stehekin Heritage Sub-Committee, which I fully support and which is outlined below:

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities.
6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in

Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

Sincerely,



To: <Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov>
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 02/10/2011 03:42PM
Subject: Re: SRCIP and Draft Land Protection Plan

National Park Service
Attention: Chip Jenkins
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Re: SRCIP and Draft Land Protection Plan

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

I do not live within the Stehekin Community, however have visited there many times since first moving to Wa. State in 1968. I first visited Stehekin in my own boat along with my inlaws from Michigan and to say they were awed is a total understatement. I have now shared the Stehekin Valley with many other friends from California, Idaho, Montana, and Florida. It is my belief that the Stehekin Community should remain intact and be accessible to those that understand the fantastic unparalleled beauty and appreciate it as a marvelous place to visit.

Please cooperate with the suggestions outlined by the Stehekin Heritage Sub-Committee, which I fully support and which is outlined below:

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities.

6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.

[REDACTED]
10/15/2010 08:55 AM

To "Chip Jenkins" <Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov>

cc <john_riedel@nps.gov>, <vicki_gempko@nps.gov>

Subject: Draft Land protection act comments

Superintendent Jenkins and those concerned:

I am writing about the current Draft Land Protection Plan, and a few points in particular. First off from a practical application aspect and within the parameters given, I think John Reidel has done a great job with barb placement and protecting the road within these parameters. I do not, however, agree with all of the parameters that he has been required to work under.

My first point is the very wording of the listing of the private property. In the plan all of the private parcels have been listed as high, medium, and low acquisition. I am told that it is not the policy of the National Park Service to acquire all the private property within the NRA. If this is the case then it is absurd to have this term acquire in this document. I have been asked several times how the National Park Service can convince people that there is not a diabolical plan to acquire all private land in the NRA. I have at each occasion answered that you have to prove it. Well here is a chance to start. REMOVE THE WORD ACQUIRE FROM THIS DOCUMENT AND CHANGE IT TO SOMETHING ELSE! If this is to simply rank the properties for land trade then call it "priority for land trade". I have been told this is just boiler plate wording and just needs to be that way. I SAY THAT AS LONG AS THAT WORDING IS IN THERE IT IS SCREAMING AT US THAT THE INTENDED POLICY OF THE NPS IS TO ACQUIRE ALL PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND THIS IS NOT RIGHT OR CONSISTENT WITH THE CREATION OF THE NRA.

My second point is that in this act and others the NPS has used indirect policy to change policy. Let me explain. By taking control of the Stehekin valley road you have been able to limit both future access to private property and the ability of the private property owners to protect their property. My prime example is the reroute of the road around McGregor Meadows. You say that by law you cannot protect your neighbors property (private property) so by moving the road you say you can no longer protect the river bank where there is no longer going to be a road. This is indirect policy being used to enact policy: by removing the road you are in effect removing future protection along that section of river, thus any protection that private property owner may have had.

My third point is the problem of long term access to private property in McGregor Meadows and perhaps others as well. I understand that it is stated that as long as it is practical the old road will be kept open, how ever only maintained as long as it is practical. Well, what happens when it is no longer practical? Is it once again indirect policy affecting policy change over a long period of time? If the river does at some point jump the road at 7 mile and move to road bed, what then happens to access for private property? Sorry we can't help because the NPS is forbidden by law to spend federal funds for private access! Again indirect policy making policy. These issues need be addressed in this document.

I am fundamentally against misuse of federal funds, and we have a lot of that happening right now. But when you are enacting policy that affects your neighbor, you have a responsibility to correct any negative effect of your actions on your neighbor. I believe in a free country and in private property rights, but this doesn't give you the right to negatively affect your neighbor. I also understand that the federal government is under a set of rules different than those of private property and is required to protect the public trust. This said, I do not think that the NPS has the right to negatively effect their neighbor with out taking actions to prevent the negative effect. The problem is that the NPS is forbidden to do anything to protect private property , and yet they can make policy changes that directly endanger private property. This is not right. I am not suggesting that the NPS spend federal funds to protect private property, but that these private property owners be allowed to get permits to do work on NPS lands to protect the property

To: <Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/10/2011 03:18PM

cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Letter Re: LPP & SRCIP

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

Please see the attached letter, commenting on the two draft plans under consideration.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins

810 Washington 20

Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

RE: Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Draft Land Protection Plan 2010 (LPP)

Dear Mr. Jenkins, 10 February 2011

I met you last year during the aftermath of the Rainbow Bridge Fire, when you were giving a presentation on the fire-fighting efforts.

I am writing you today to express my deep concern about the SRCIP and LPP draft plans as proposed by the Park Service. For my entire life, Stehekin has been my home, and that of my family. As you are well aware, the Buckners have been in Stehekin for over 100 years. Although my career requires me to live in Santa Barbara, Stehekin is and always has been "home" to me and my family.

Why the Park Service feels it must "manage" and "plan" each element of Stehekin life has always been a mystery to me.

The gist of the 2 Draft Plans being submitted appears to be that the Government must buy up all the private property in the Valley, so it can better "manage" it; and that additional "land protections" are necessary so as better to manage that private property it has NOT been able to acquire.

Enough already. It is always a source of wonder to me that the land already owned by the Park, particularly near the airstrip, is a jumble of disorganized housing that would be characterized as a ghetto if it were not located in some of the most beautiful surroundings in the world.

Stehekin's unique value and traditions are based on a history of private ownership, of homesteaders and their progeny who have developed the land and found a way to support themselves over the years. It is fair to say that the task of remaining self-sufficient and independent in Stehekin has become dramatically more difficult since the advent of the Park in 1966.

To that end, I join with Stehekin Heritage in requesting that:

1. NPS join Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin community.
2. The NPS and Chelan County jointly enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. The LPP include an express provision in the overall objectives and goals stating "It is a management

goal of the NPS to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan national Recreation Area.

4. The Stehekin Valley Road be maintained in its present location, and that the road be protected from the river both where the river is adjacent to the road, and also where there is potential erosion that will impact the road if not protected.

5. Any land acquisition by NPS be limited to trading properties, with no net loss of private property land base value.

6. Immediately implement river control and road protection measures listed in the SRCIP. Allow more time for study of the impacts of the LPP.

My primary concern is that Stehekin maintain its identity as a community with significant amount of private ownership. The character and authentic spirit that resides in the Stehekin valley is absolutely priceless and cannot, indeed MUST NOT be replaced or displaced.

Stehekin is such a unique spot, with a rich heritage. It is not, as we all know, part of the National Park, and yet there is a tendency on the part of NPS to treat it as such. It is wrong to accept that the Federal Government should own any more of this land than it already does, because by doing so, you change the character of the Valley in profoundly negative ways.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/10/2011 03:46PM

Subject: RE: Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Draft Land Protection Plan 2010 (LPP)

Dear Mr. Jenkins -

please find my comments on the draft SRCIP and LPP below, and attached.

Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins

810 Washington 20

Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

RE: Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Draft Land Protection Plan 2010 (LPP)

10 February 2011

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

Stehekin is a special place. My parents recognized that and insisted on taking our whole family there for vacation every summer. My grandparents recognized that and decided to spend half of their retirement there. The National Park Service recognized that when it established North Cascades National Park, encompassing part of the Stehekin Valley. The place is worth protecting.

Stehekin is a special place for many reasons, both natural and cultural, and I count myself lucky to have experienced it as a child, and now, as an adult. The fact that I have been able to experience it, and many others like me, is largely due to the unique and vibrant community based in Stehekin. The actions presented in the LPP and the SRCIP plans, specifically, the acquisition of private property by the NPS, threatens that community is in direct conflict with the mission of the NPS.

The National Park Service website states:

We are proud that tribes, local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individual citizens ask for our help in revitalizing their communities , preserving local history, celebrating local heritage, and creating close to home opportunities for kids and families to get outside, be active, and have fun....

Taking care of the national parks and helping Americans take care of their communities is a job we love, and we need – and welcome – your help and support. [1]

If the message of cooperation with communities wasn't evident from that quote, there is even a page titled 'working with communities' on the website. Yet the actions proposed in the LPP would endanger, not support the community. And the actions proposed in the SRCIP would make it more difficult to experience the park, to 'be active, and have fun'.

The fact that these plans directly contradict the mission of the park service is surprising, confusing, and profoundly sad. As the steward of the natural jewels of this country, the NPS should be promoting visitation and enjoyment of parks as a course of business, not by necessity in the face of budget cuts.

The fact that one of the communities that NPS is helping to 'revitalize' and 'protect' has to organize itself to fight the short-sighted and counterproductive efforts of NPS is a shocking indictment, and an outrageous violation of the trust placed in your organization.

I stand ready to applaud and support the NPS if they stay true to their own principles, as neatly illustrated with the excerpt taken from nps.gov. 'Supporting local heritage' and 'Helping Americans take care of their communities' does not mean buying up all of the land and restricting access to the park. I hope that NPS will reconsider the ill-fated provisions outlined in the LPP and SRCIP, and will cooperate with the

suggestions outlined by the Stehekin Heritage Sub-Committee, which I fully support and which is outlined below:

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley .
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities .
6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.
8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP .
9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location .
10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.
11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in it original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

With utmost sincerity,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington 20

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02/10/2011 07:40 PM PST
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: Stehekin Community Land Protection - Attention Superintendent Chip Jenkins

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

I am taking some time to write to you in the hopes that my voice and opinion can be weighed at least to some small degree when it comes to your views and support of the Stehekin community. My interest in the subject comes from growing up in Stehekin, my parents moved to the valley before I was born. I grew up in the valley and my parents are land owners and business owners in the valley still. Since graduating from the University of Washington in 2001 I have lived in the Seattle area, however Stehekin is and will always be my true home.

I truly believe each of the points below are extremely important to the continued existence of an incredibly unique and beautiful community. One particular area that has left a lasting impression on me personally is in regards to land trade opportunities for private properties that are endangered by the Stehekin river. The home and land that I grew up on in Stehekin was mostly unchanged for the first 18 years of my life. The number of memories that I have are the time that I spent there are more than I can ever fully recount, and that is why looking at that same property now is so depressing to me now.

The land has been diminished by nearly half of its original size. The river has washed through the basement of the home that my family built and that I grew up in, leaving half a foot of mud and sand and dead fish to be scooped out with shovels. The river now runs over property that used to belong to my parents and is now a moving body of water.

I could go on and on, but I imagine you are an extremely busy individual. I do hope that you will support the Stehekin Heritage and the Stehekin community regarding these issues and I thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

11-Points to Support

We believe that supporting these planning objectives and management policies will sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community, as well as improve visitor services.

Eleven points that Stehekin Heritage supports:

Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement -(revised 2/7/11)
Draft LPP and SRCIP

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.

3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.

.

4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.

5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities. See section 5.2

6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

The items included in this Summary Statement are presented with the intention to support management policies that sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community.

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 04:14 PM

To <noca_superintendent@nps.gov>, <martin.doern@mail.house.gov>, <maria@cantwell.senate.gov>, <joel_merkel@cantwell.senate.gov>, <mather@cantwell.senate.gov>, <parlette.linda@leg.wa.gov>, <patty@murray.senate.gov>, <jaime_shimek@murray.senate.gov>

cc

Subject North Cascades River Corridor and Land Protection Plans

Please see attached letter,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

February 10, 2011

National Park Service
Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

I am writing in response to the proposed Stehekin River Corridor Plan and Land Protection Plan. As a property owner on the Stehekin River, we have experienced first hand the results of recent flooding. However, I feel more threatened by the prioritization of my property than I do the river.

The original intent of congress was to protect the natural resources of the North Cascades and community of Stehekin. The preservation of the community can only be accomplished if there is no net loss of private property. The LLP prioritization of the remaining private property implies the NPS should be acquiring virtually all of the private property in the valley. I am in favor of a moratorium on all further private property land acquisition unless it is an exchange for land of comparable value/size. Much more federal land would need to be made available for exchange if the intent is truly to support removing threatened private properties along the river corridor.

I would request the National Park Service and Chelan County do an impact analysis on the effect of continued land acquisition on the community of Stehekin.

The proposals to protect the road (what little is still available for public use) should be a high priority as well as the restoration of riverbank at the Buckner Homestead.

Thank you for considering my comments,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: Congressman Doc Hastings
Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Linda Evans Parlette
Senator Patty Murray
Chelan County Commissioner Doug England

To: chip_jenkins@nps.gov
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 02/11/2011 08:55PM
Subject: Response to Draft LPP and SRCIP

February 11, 2011

Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

Re: Response to Draft LPP and SRCIP

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

Writing letters such as this is most decidedly not my forte. I have been struggling for months to come up with the words to express succinctly what I feel needs to happen with regards to the draft SRCIP and LPP plans. Now, on the last day for public comment, I still am at a loss as to the best way to convey my thoughts on this massive subject, but I am out of time. Conveniently, Stehekin Heritage has done a wonderful job of getting to the heart of the matter, and having attended the meeting held in Stehekin on Jan. 10, 2011, I know that the points I am concerned with have been addressed in your presence.

I am writing to you today as a member of the Stehekin Community to voice my support of the points laid out by Stehekin Heritage regarding the draft SRCIP and LPP. It is my belief that while the current administration and staff working on this project did not intend this outcome, wording has been put in the draft plans which could endanger the future of this unique community. Please take the presentation given by Stehekin Heritage to heart, and know that there is more support for their presented points than just the few who were chosen to speak.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the input submitted from the community of Stehekin on this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 02/11/2011 11:44PM
Subject: Stehekin Heritage Recommendations

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

Please accept this email as my support of the recommendations made by the members of Stehekin Heritage related to the NPS draft Land Protection Plan and the Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan.

My wife [REDACTED] and I have been living in the Stehekin valley for nearly three years now. All of this time we have been renting a cabin near the bakery from the [REDACTED] family. My wife's mother and her fiancé also live nearby on a small piece of property that he has owned for nearly fifty years.

Our first trip to Stehekin was in 2005 where, like most, we were initially awe struck by the beauty of the surrounding hills, the lake and the valley. We eventually, however, moved to Stehekin for another reason entirely. My wife and I are currently raising our four children aged from 4 to 11. All four will be attending the local school next year. While spending time in Stehekin as visitors, we quickly developed many strong friendships with various members of the community. My wife and I were both greatly impacted by the simple lifestyle shared by the people that lived here. We both knew that the greatest gift we could offer our children was the chance to live and grow up in just such a place.

I must admit that it is somewhat disturbing that the stewards of our nation's parks would not have a more holistic outlook that speaks to the value of Stehekin's private property as it relates to community life.

Your draft plans speak of the potential for continued land acquisition. The draft Land Protection Plan establishes high, medium and low priorities for potential land acquisition. Only 4.75 acres is listed in the low priority. This is unfortunate. Before more acquisition is considered, we believe it is reasonable that the National Park Service examine the impacts of continued land acquisition on the Stehekin Community. How much property will be acquired before the community my family knows today ceases to exist?

I genuinely hope for the valley's sake and for the sake of the people that live and own property here that you will consider the recommendations that have been made by members of Stehekin Heritage. I personally concur with all of these recommendations and furthermore consider them to be reasonable and realistic.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Stehekin, WA

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley .

that is being negatively affected by their neighbor the NPS.

My fourth point concerns the shooting range. We are given choices of option A, B, C, and D. then a preferred option. It is included in two of the options to move the shooting range, but in the preferred option this is not included. This is another example of how indirect actions are used to enact change. We are given an option, but it is not included in the preferred option. So our rights to recreate in the NRA slowly erode away. You need to include relocating the shooting range in the preferred option.

This brings me to one of my main points that policy is being enacted through indirect methods. Though there are different options presented, we are offered things in the options that in reality are not options at all, and thus they have been included, but not really. This policy of offering us our rights in a bad option versus a better option that erodes our rights needs to stop! The moving of the shooting range is a prime example. Another example is lack of an option for the relocation of the upper Stehekin valley road. The case can be made that this is not intentional, but in a review of past policies it is clear that this is used often. I have asked several times if private citizens can be more involved in the process before it gets to the public comment state. I have been told that this not allowed by special interest law. The problem with this is by the time it gets to us we are forced to make a decision as to which rights we want to sacrifice. This method of policy making must stop. The citizens of the community need to be able to choose an option that protects private property rights.

As I stated in the beginning of this letter, now is a great time to prove that the NPS is not against private property and the community of Stehekin by changing this document to more clearly reflect this.

This plan does address some other important needs. One is the preservation of the lower Buckner field. I am glad to see this preservation of our historical heritage. I think the NPS needs to give the lower field this same consideration. I believe it is part of the original Maxwell homestead, and the first field to be cleared. It should be a part of our historic preservation. It is also one of the popular places in the valley to view game animals such as deer, bear and elk.

The proposed raft take out just above the River Resort is a great piece of work. It follows the intent of the Park to allow recreation. It is in the lowest possible place on the river for a take out on public land, and the fact that it is being incorporated in to the rock barb work makes a lot of sense, and is fiscally responsible.

Also the moving of the road to eliminate the negative effect on private property is well done. One additional thing that could be done here is to make a dense planting of native plants for a screen for the up valley private property. John, Vicky, and whoever worked on this did a great job.

I am glad to see the suggestions of a camp at Rainbow Falls, and I hear of plans of a bike trail. I do believe these are consistent with the intent of the NRA.

██████████, Stehekin valley resident

3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.

.

4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.

5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities . See section 5.2

6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP .

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location .

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in it original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 04:15 PM

To Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

cc

Subject

Chip:

I have read with interest the letters my various descendants have sent your way, and I agree whole-heartedly with them all.

Like my son, [REDACTED], Stehekin has always been home to me, regardless of where I may be living. It was also home to my mother her entire life, she having been born there in 1985.

As a descendant of one of the 17 homesteaders who settled the valley, I have found it painful to see the cavalier way in which the NPS has reduced the hard-won 1800-plus acres of private land to well under 500, and seems bent on reducing it even more by one ruse or another. I cannot understand why the NPS hasn't seen the uniqueness of the community and capitalized on that as one of their primary drawing cards instead of trying to destroy it.

As for the Stehekin river, its vagaries are nothing new - two of the original homesteaders relinquished their first claims and relocated because of river action. If the various layers of government would stand aside, the valley residents would deal with the situation.

I would like to go on record as supporting the efforts of the Stehekin Heritage Committee 100%.

Sincerely
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 10:49 AM

To Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

cc

Subject : Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

To whom it may concern:

RE: Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

This letter is a plea for help to save the community of Stehekin. As we speak plans are being finalized by the National Park Service to pass an agenda that could mean the end of Stehekin as we know it. It is my fear and the fear of others that the unintended consequence of the (LPP) woven into the framework of the SRCIP , will erode the community of Stehekin.

My Grandfather [REDACTED] could never have predicted how much Stehekin would change since he fell in love with it 80 years ago, but I feel safe saying he'd be pleased at how little it has. Of course change does inevitably happen. The one room log school house my mom attended, has been replaced with a bigger, better building, but it's still basically a one room, one teacher school providing a one room, one teacher education. Her teacher was Mr. Bell and it was common practice for him to borrow mom's buck knife, worn on her hip at all times, to clean his finger nails. Today's students are encouraged to keep their knives at home and Mr. Scutt is a bit more refined than Mr. Bell, but the experience of growing up and living in Stehekin has not been diluted a drop.

The families who have chosen, and choose to make Stehekin their home all have something in common. It is a shared belief that our priorities in life should be the things that really matter. Clean water, nutritious food, warm shelter, family and friends, and the peaceful solitude of a beautiful and remote mountain valley. That's it, that's all you really need. This lesson is of the utmost importance to modern man but a lesson easily lost in the fast paced, neon distraction existence that has become the norm. Visitors to the valley leave with a sense of re-awakening. The valley's new residents and those with roots going back 5 and 6 generations, set an example of how, deep down inside, we know we should all be living. Living within our means, within our resources, close to nature, where neighbors are friends and everybody knows everybody. A place where people grow their own food and hunt and raise their own meat. A place where the season dictates the pace. A place where mother nature is always the boss. I have always felt that the community of Stehekin is a perfect example of a community living a sustainable existence. In a consumer based society where consumption equals more consumption we need to carefully examine systems and lifestyles that are sustainable. The valley has remained a sustainable community for over 100 years because of the people and businesses that make it work. Stehekin is a community, it is a culture, it is a history, it is an experience and most importantly it is a way of life. The current plans laid out in the LPP could cripple and distort the valley and its inhabitants way of life.

The science supporting the need of the NPS to adopt the SRCIP for the safety of the valley is questionable at best. The Stehekin river is a living, breathing thing. Like some neighbors it can be disagreeable, troublesome, even downright obstinate. But this is her home, she was here first, she'll be here last, and we choose to live within her world and follow her rules. I began working as a professional river guide on the Stehekin river in 2000 but I've been swimming in it my whole life. I've led over 200 commercial rafting trips and made hundreds of others. I was on the first and only raft to have ever floated from bridge creek, through tumwater canyon and down to the mouth. I've rafted it, kayaked it, riverboarded it, and swam it, I've fished it, snorkeled it, skinny dipped it and rescued people from it. I

wade across it to get home, I drink out of it year round, unfiltered and have since I was four, and so do my kids. I have an intimate knowledge of the river's moods, characteristics, and tendencies. It's safe to say watching the river is something I do a great deal of. I disagree with the Park services findings that the recent floods namely 03 and 06 are trend setting. River systems are very dynamic and through their natural cycles of sediment accumulation and dispersal their bed levels will fluctuate greatly from event to event with most of the major accumulations being highly localized. The point is that we could have a flood this spring that blasts out major woody debris and facilitates a massive sediment scouring and dispersal which results in the river bed levels being lower than prior to the 03 event. I don't think the threat of a flood is any greater today than it was 50 years ago and I feel the historical flow data supports that. I encourage the NPS to consider building an upper raft put in at Tumwater campground as the entire tumwater gorge is safely navigable by skilled experienced white water enthusiasts at water flows below 1500cfs.

Spending money to relocate and rebuild the current NPS maintenance facility is wasteful even in a good economy. It seems to me that the SRCIP is a great way to distract everyone from what the park should really be spending money on which is the re-opening of the Stehekin road. Getting the road re-opened would be a great step towards re-establishing a positive and trustful relationship between the park and the community and it's my strong belief that federal money spent on anything other than that is a waste. My family and I strongly support the position of the Stehekin Heritage Society in regards to the SRCIP.

We oppose moving the Stehekin Valley Road

We request a socio-economic study on the impacts of the proposed plan upon the community.

We demand a moratorium on land acquisition, (not land exchanges) until the findings of such an investigation.

We support a fifth alternative that includes community ideas combined with the best ideas set forth in the four alternatives put forth by the NPS.

In Addition:

We support:

*

The National Park Service (NPS) join Chelan County and conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.

*

Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, that the NPS and Chelan County work to enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.

*

The Land Protection Plan must state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

*

The NPS should continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.

*

Change all "acquisition" priorities to read "exchange" priorities. See section 5.2. LPP.

*

Separate the SRCIP and the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.

*

If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river, "Let the River Decide" which pieces are most threatened and need prioritized, and trade only those vulnerable lands. Priority lists would be only for trading purposes. Land trades should be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their original piece with all property rights intact. Value is defined not only by dollar amount but also by potential uses of the original property.

*

Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, to harm the road if allowed to erode.

*

Remove appendix C – the Overlay District - from the plan.

*

Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation. Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

We believe that supporting these planning objectives and management policies will sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community, as well as, improve visitor services.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 11:36 AM

To Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

cc

Subject LLP and SRCIP Response

Chip,

Please find the attached response.

[REDACTED]
February 11, 2011

National Park Service Attention: Chip Jenkins 810 State Route 20 Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Re: Drafts -SRCIP and Land Protection Plan

Dear Chip,

Today marks the end of the public comment period on the two plans. I have appreciated the openness of you and your staff as we have worked through this process. The outcomes of our input will have enormous and ongoing impacts upon the future of our community. Because all parties involved have treated each other with respect and dignity this has been in many ways a community building experience rather than a destructive force. You deserve credit for helping create that climate.

The onus is now on you to truly consider all of this input. I certainly understand that you do not have free rein to do the right thing even if the course is obvious. I do hope that when you come up against a policy, rule or law that keeps you from doing the right thing you will identify what it is so that we can work together to change the things that are destructive to the future of our microcosm of Americana that we have here in the Stehekin Valley.

I look back at my family's history and my own childhood and think of what we have lost and what we have gained and I see a community that is still vibrant in many ways but I also see a sharp decline in independence and interdependence that was the stalwart of rural communities and our own in particular. It is not that this community has not always had the interface with the Federal government. The difference is that the NPS decided to take a much more active role than the USFS in forming or in many cases disintegrating what the community would or would not be in the future.

I encourage you to take a serious look at what community members and other friends of Stehekin have offered. I am extremely proud of my community and the energy folks have put in to responding to these plans. You will find many common threads and will probably find some contradictions. What I think will impress you most is that it is obvious that every one of these people love this valley, not as a place to get rich or for personal gain, but as an asset that they wish to pass along intact to the next generation.

Passing along a community intact is much more than pristine wilderness, pure air and water or lack of large scale logging, mining and development. That might be what to focus on to pass along an intact piece of geography but it is not what is needed to pass along a culture. Culture often needs the absence of government to mature and refine rather than the presence of centralized government.

As far as my own particular input I will cast my vote with what you have received from Stehekin Heritage. There are certainly more details that need filled in but I know you have promised to keep working with all parties on details after this deadline and I look forward to working with you and your staff.

I am also looking forward to the lean times in your budget. I do not say this out of meanness but rather as a positive comment. As I look across the nation at Native American populations I have come to understand the worst thing that can happen is a huge influx of federal dollars. What has happened to tribes and cultures is that putting people on the dole has reduced or eliminated the need for ingenuity and

the necessity for productivity and it has broken the spirits of entire cultures. The best times in Stehekin have been when we need to work together toward solutions and lean budgets aid in that process. Necessity is truly the mother of invention and socializing and subsidizing cultures is the enemy. I believe there are solutions and that the solutions involve keeping the road and river largely within its present course. Doubling up on efforts on the river and putting aside other projects for now will in the long run be more beneficial to the community and by extension the visitor. The socio-economic investigation and the concurrent moratorium on purchase of more private land will help us to lay a foundation for sustainability in to the future. I look forward to working with all parties involved on this endeavor. Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Cc:

Stehekin Heritage Representative Doc Hastings Senator Linda Evans Parlette Chelan County
Commissioner Doug England Chelan County Commissioner Keith Goehner Chelan County
Commissioner Ron Walter Todd Young, Chief of Staff for the Natural Resource Committee in the House
Representative Mike Armstrong Representative Cary Condotta

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 12:36 PM

To <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>

cc

Subject Letter attached

Please find a letter attached regarding the LPP and SCRIP>

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

RE: Draft Land Protection Plan/Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

Thank you for extending the comment period on the LPP and SCRIP. It was with some surprise and dismay that we read these documents. There are huge issues that need to be resolved and it feels like we have gone years backwards.

Lake Chelan Recreation Area started with 1700 acres of private property. Now there are 417 acres, and 271.5 acres of those are targeted as high priority to be acquired with only 23.81 acres being considered "suitable" for exchange. Although we support the idea of exchanges, 23.81 acres is ludicrous compared to the high priority list to purchase. The need to continue to honor current land exchanges while expanding the property base for proposed exchanges is paramount.

In order to have any semblance of a private based community, there has to be private property base available for industry and homes. Even with the current level of private property it is almost impossible for a young person/couple to buy property and be able to make a living and pay for that property as a Stehekin resident. It is time to revisit the GAO report and investigate returning lands to the private property base.

Over the past 40 years it has been our mantra that the NPS stop acquiring lands, while the private property base has been continually eroded under the seemingly benign reign of willing seller/willing buyer. This has begun to feel more like the evasion by the evil empire. We simply cannot reconcile the verbiage of "valuing a private community" and the proposed actions in the LPP. This has eroded any trust that may have been built in the last two decades. We think there needs to be a moratorium on any more land acquisition.

When the North Cascades National Park was created congress took the Stehekin Valley out of the Park and put it into a Recreation Area for the very reason of keeping a community in Stehekin. The private land-based community is threatened by the insidious, creeping policy of land acquisition. Any further reduction of the Private Land Base by NPS purchase in Stehekin creates a deficit which we believe violates Congressional intention when passing PL 90-544. This legislation spoke of the value, character and importance of the Stehekin Community and set aside this area for national recognition and the specific purpose to preserve the unique character of the Stehekin Community. It is ironic to read the legislation and then be faced with this crap. It is imperative for our community that there is no more loss of private land. Priority lists would be only for trading purposes. Land trades should be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their original piece with all property rights intact. Value is defined not only by dollar amount but also by potential uses of the original property. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities.

We oppose the proposed road reroute, under the guise of "the need to avoid the river". Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, to harm the road if allowed to erode.

The SCRIP needs to be separated from the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP. We also ask that Appendix C, the overlay district, be removed from this plan.

Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

In closing we request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.

We support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation. We have to have proof that a private property based community is important and see that demonstrated in any plans.

We hope that this process can be salvaged to craft plans that honor the private property and interests in Stehekin.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

To: chip_jenkins@nps.gov

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/11/2011 09:21PM

cc: stehekinheritage1@gmail.com, todd.young@mailhouse.gov, castevensand3@yahoo.com

Subject: SRCIP and LPP public input

: Palmer 'Chip' Jenkins

Superintendent, North Cascades NPS Complex

noca_superintendent@nps.gov

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

As I try to understand the big picture of the Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP), I see that the National Park believes the "current changes" in the Stehekin River are occurring because of climate change, i.e. "global warming" and that the National Park cannot protect the private land and property from natural floods. Therefore, the private property within the floodplain needs to be acquired or traded for land not in the floodplain. I have not yet found any supporting evidence giving the National Park or the Federal Government for that matter, authority to protect the private property of its citizens by acquiring the land. If I am mistaken on this point, I would greatly appreciate being directed to that rule. If such a rule was enacted to protect the people from their own property, can anyone imagine what this county would be like?

The intent or the "rules of Congress" set forth for us to follow concerning the establishment of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area are clearly publicized and reconfirmed by the General Accounting Office report of 1981. I am therefore disturbed by the Park Services current proposals of the SRCIP. Just as we had to follow the rules of our parents and our children for us, so must we follow the intent or rules set forth by Congress and our lawmakers when proposing different implementation plans for the Stehekin River Corridor. As you are well aware, anyone can petition Congress to change those rules established by an earlier Congress. Is it not the job of government employees —e.g. the National Park - to write plans that directly reflect and enforce the actions and intent of their superiors, in this case Congress? In my opinion, if the National Park wants Congress to change SR 700 then they should lobby for that on their own time and not at the expense of the taxpayers. Because the proposed National Parks alternatives do not conform to the act of Congress SR 700, that established this unique Recreation Area, technically, they should not even be considered for implementation. I am of the belief that it is this "uniqueness" which confuses individuals as to the establishment of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and its importance and symbiotic relation it provides to the National Park itself.

This is why I really appreciate, and I know you do to, when citizens spend the time to put together plans that provide solutions to current problems and conforms to the acts of Congress. The "Alternative 5", which was presented on January 10, 2011 in Stehekin by John Wilsey and the Stehekin Heritage, does conform. Therefore, I request Alternatives 1-4 not be considered on the grounds that they are overstepping both the Act of Congress SR 700 and the 1981 GAO report and that the only conforming alternative, "Alternative 5", be considered in conjunction with the Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement Revised 2/7/2011

The dollars spent on the Parks proposed acquisitions would more than pay for any "flood protection" that the Park would provide and still maintain protection not only for the Park property but for private property as well. Instead of putting energy and money in proposing and implementing nonconforming policies, put these good people to work on ideas on how to implement the solutions proposed "By the People".

I believe that the National Park Service as a whole is not meeting its fiduciary responsibilities of upholding the value of the Lake Chelan Recreation Area established by Congress for the benefit and enjoyment of us all.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely Yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 05:01 PM

To <noca_superintendent@nps.gov>

cc

Subject NOCA LPP/SCMP/DEIS

Please find attached the comments of North Cascades Conservation Council on the Draft Land Protection Plan, Stehekin Corridor Management Plan and Draft EIS.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Superintendent Palmer Jenkins
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284 February 11, 2011

Comments by North Cascades Conservation Council on Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan: Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Land Protection Plan 2010

Dear Superintendent Jenkins:

North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC) was formed in 1957 to protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, wildlife and wilderness values. We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the two draft plans, i.e., Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan and companion Draft Land Protection Plan 2010 and Environmental Impact Statement. We commend you and your staff as well as consultants on the professional process through which you have engaged with our organization and with all others who care deeply about the future of the lower Stehekin Valley. The science-based analyses of factors that have altered the fundamental natural forces of the Stehekin River and the thorough study of the implications for management are extremely helpful to NCCC in formulating its comments on the range of management options the National Park Service (NPS) has considered.

At the outset it may be appropriate to clarify NCCC's longstanding interests and positions with respect to the Stehekin Valley, NPS management, and the Stehekin community. First, NCCC regards the Stehekin Valley area as unique in its natural and cultural elements. Second, we regard NPS management as a critical component of preserving the national interest in the scenic and other natural environmental attributes of the area. Third, we are aware that this important NPS role translates into policies that affect the residents and community of Stehekin however we recognize that the NPS has limited authority to affect local determination exercised within the jurisdictions of Washington State agencies and Chelan County, community organizations and individual choices made by residents and property owners. Fourth, we are also aware that many of the services the NPS provides, e.g., waste removal, road maintenance and snow clearing, fire hazard reduction and fire fighting, visitor services, and emergency response, to name a few, also serve the needs of the community and offer employment opportunities for local residents. Payments in lieu of taxes are also made by the federal government. Fifth, NCCC understands the legislative mandate that the NPS only consider land acquisition from willing-sellers. We support the

exercise of this option as the right of private property owners to dispose of their property according to their own wishes. Likewise, we understand that NPS purchase of private property is subject to its own determination of the value to the public of those lands and the requirements to assign fair market value through the federal regulations regarding appraisals. NCCC also understands that the NPS is required to consider the identification of potential parcels of land for exchange for public purposes. NCCC supports the NPS in judicious use of its legal authorities in this area. If requested by willing sellers, NCCC would endeavor to assist property owners in appropriate ways in fulfilling their intent to sell property.

NCCC would like to underscore that over 40 plus years, it has sought NPS planning for the upper and lower Stehekin Valley as a composite and not segmented decision processes. In the upper valley the destabilizing floods have clearly indicated that maintenance of roads is impossible without very expensive investments. Such investments are extremely hard to justify given the scant demand and the high cost both fiscally and in terms of the protected environment. We observe, in fact that, recreational usage of the areas without road access appears to be equal to recreational usage when there was road access. When nature speaks, we should listen.

The Lower Stehekin Corridor is right in the middle of dealing with destabilized river sediment transport. If there is justification for public expenditure of management funds, then it should be in the Lower Stehekin Valley where most economic activity occurs, where the NPS facilities are most at risk if not relocated and where private property owners are most at risk. Alternative 2 is estimated to cost \$27.80 million to fully implement and these investments are necessitated by changing conditions in the Corridor and the need to relocate visitor and other facilities. NCCC would emphasize the limited role the NPS can play with respect to State and County responsibilities. We appreciate the efforts made in both plans for the NPS to clarify its jurisdictions and responsibilities.

NCCC Comments are organized as follows:

Comments on the Draft Land Protection Plan
Comments on the Draft Stehekin Corridor Plan
Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Comments on the Draft Land Protection Plan

NCCC is glad to see the previous 1995 Land Protection Plan [LPP] being updated and replaced. Without belaboring the points, NCCC has been disappointed in the implementation of the 1995 Plan. The criteria for selecting lands for exchange were flawed and the processes employed tended to favor private and not public interests.

NCCC is prepared to take a new look at the Draft LPP. It is useful to point out that the land base in private ownership and the number of privately owned parcels has changed very little in the intervening 16 years. The number of structures has increased and this lessens the visitor's experience of a small community located in a remote wild and natural Valley.

The Draft LPP seems heavily focused on the relationship of each parcel of land to the Stehekin River which is appropriate given the changing nature of the river and the geologic and hydrologic processes driving its potential impacts on public and private structures and property. This emphasis responds to the increased risk and uncertainty related to occupancy of properties exposed to the new flood regime and it provides the NPS and property owners with viable options for adjustment that were not available or as

high a priority in the previous LPP.

NCCC would suggest that, in addition to this emphasis, the NPS consider revising the priorities to give high priority to lands that enhance scenic beauty and or buffer visual impacts of development as experienced by visitors.

With respect to Sec. 1.4 Guidelines it appears that the NPS is merely restating its limited authority to manage land use. This may be useful to clarify for all parties what the NPS can and cannot do and that is important. However, many of these guidelines are conditioned on uses being "compatible" and that term is defined pp. 17-20 to the satisfaction of NCCC. While we understand that some parties may not like these definitions or not trust them, NCCC would note that they have been applied for a considerable amount of time without challenge. Most importantly, we applaud the NPS for applying these standards to its own activities before and continuing as part of this planning process. This consistency of application should help to clarify NPS intent and practice. Concomitantly NCCC would urge the NPS to continue to pursue with the Stehekin Community acting in concert with Chelan County in adopting and "overlay district" as outlined in Section 4.2.4. This would have the advantages of providing surety to local aspirations for sustainable community development as demonstrated in the Icicle Creek Valley of Chelan County.

NCCC strongly supports the efforts of the NPS in this revised LPP to clarify its limited jurisdiction over private property in the Stehekin Valley and its willingness to engage with individuals, the Stehekin community, Chelan County and the State of Washington in developing predictable and reliable conditions for the future. NCCC finds it frustrating to hear rhetoric about the NPS buying everyone out when the NPS is only identifying as it is required by law to do, those properties of highest value for the public. It is time to get real.

As mentioned above, NCCC would like to elevate visual quality of Stehekin Valley visitor [or resident] experience as part of the LPP priorities.

As far as the identification of exchange lands is concerned NCCC would support the inclusion of the area in the vicinity of the Airstrip. In fact, NCCC would support the identification of the airstrip itself as exchange land because it meets all of the criteria. Decommissioning of the airstrip would remove an incompatible use in the view of NCCC, provide significant easily accessible land for residences not in the floodplain, and discontinue a hazardous activity [difficult landing pattern, numerous fatalities, potential for fire, intrusion in beaver habitat, etc.]. In many respects, the NPS should be encouraged to close the airstrip and offer properties for exchange – over time revegetation could take place, invasive species would be naturally controlled, etc. We note this alternative was considered but rejected as in conflict with the 1995 GMP. By allowing this conflicting and hazardous use to continue the NPS is creating an attractive nuisance as well as keeping a scar on the landscape second only to the Holden Mine tailings [which the National Forest Service is now in the process of restoring].

NCCC would discourage the inclusion of property in the vicinity of Rainbow Falls in the exchange lands category. There are several reasons for this. First, it appears that property was one purchased by NCCC members when the NPS was not able to accommodate the requests of all willing sellers in the early day of the NPS. The intent was to be sure it remained in NPS jurisdiction. NCCC understands that is not the way the system works, however, NCCC would suggest that that property proposed for exchange might be better reserved for campground use. Please note that the adjacent property is now available for sale. If the owner of the property adjacent were a willing seller 06-106 it would seem a long term prudent action for the NPS to acquire that property so the Rainbow District could be fully devoted to public purposes.

Under the present rating regime, this property only rates as "medium" in terms of NPS identification of interest. NCCC would point out this rating turns up because the property is not in the flood plain and is therefore of lower value. This shows the limitations of overemphasizing the floodplain in the 2010 LPP. There needs to be more balance in the purposes served.

Finally, NCCC would question the identification as exchange properties in Fig. 5 that are upstream of Boulder Creek and along the Stehekin River. This would promote development in a way to block visitors from the Stehekin River corridor and despite the minimal buffer from the river would put private property between the visitor and the river.

Comments on the Draft Stehekin Corridor Plan

In preface to NCCC comments on the DSCP, NCCC wants to recognize the difficult task that the NPS has in developing a plan for a river on a slow but steady rampage. The clear and competent descriptions of river processes and how they have changed the floodplain in the recent past and for the foreseeable future are extremely valuable to us in evaluating the Plan alternatives. While, NCCC appreciates the efforts to plan, we also are aware that the combination of rain, snow melt, slides, logjams are impossible to predict and they may surprise even the best laid plans. NCCC applauds the NPS efforts to allow the river to seek its own equilibrium with carefully engineered and geo friendly techniques rather than massive and expensive control structures or similarly expensive and river resource damaging channel dredging.

The NPS preferred alternative # 2 seems to capture most of NCCC concerns and the management directions we would support with some caveats as mentioned above with regard to the criteria for land acquisition. We do have concerns about some aspects of road rerouting in the vicinity of what has been identified as habitat of the spotted owl but we hope the NPS has exercised due diligence in its consideration of that concern. When one looks in the aggregate at the impact categories [Fig. ii-11, p. xli], however, one is struck by the lack of benefits and major adverse impacts absorbed by Wildlife and Special Status Wildlife. It is difficult to recreate the specific rankings for the Figure, but it points to a need by the NPS to consider significant mitigation for these adverse impacts to wildlife or to seek ways to reduce or avoid these impacts. Alternatively, if the rankings improperly reflect the impact of management actions under the Plan, they should be revised. NCCC review of the wildlife and special status species mitigation measures (pp 77-79) is noted but the question remains if Fig. ii-11 ranks impacts before or after mitigation [hopefully before].

NCCC found it difficult to interpret the NPS meaning with respect to Cultural resources [p.55] and suspect that there needs to some editing where it states that no pre-contact archaeology was found in the Corridor area and therefore it is treated in the DEIS? If no sites are found how can it be treated in the DEIS. NCCC does not want to be seen as trying to second guess the archeologists who made the determination but we would question if the action of the river itself may have covered over potential sites. We would propose that the NPS evaluate this contingency and state how it is prepared to protect and preserve any sites that are exposed by the evolution of the river channel. The issue we are raising here is how the NPS would respond if the river action itself uncovered sites as opposed to the mitigation measures (p. 479-480) for sites and artifacts discovered as a consequence of construction.

NCCC supports the closure of the shooting range.

NCCC supports the construction of trails in the lower valley [Landing to High Bridge] to benefit visitors and to improve safety.

A minor edit but important issue is that it is NCCC understanding that the Board of Geographic Names changed the "Coon Run" "Coon Lake" designation. The Final documents should reflect those decisions [see pp. 91,185, 214, 216, 223, 349, 353, 420, 471, etc.].

Overall, NCCC is pleased with the effort to go with the flow of the river in attempting to plan for the Stehekin Corridor. While NCCC advocated for a more comprehensive look at the Lower Stehekin Valley issues, we accept this more narrowly focused set of plans and DEIS. We look forward to the Final set of Plans and EIS and most importantly toward implementation. In closing, we offer support for finding the necessary funding to implement the plan and we hope there will not be too many surprises.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 04:46 PM

To Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

cc

Subject Support Alternative 5 and the 11 points that the Stehekin Heritage wrote about:

Superintendent Chip Jenkins:

My family & I support Alternative 5 and the 11 points that the Stehekin Heritage wrote about:

http://www.stehekinheritage.com/11points-to-support_329.html. Also, I totally agree with Circular #1~It is absolutely RIGHT ON. Please see my background and why I wish to protect the heritage and livelihood of the notable town of Stehekin:

I remember growing up and spending a lot of time in Stehekin as a kid. My 12 year old daughter loves going to the family cabin. When I mentioned the bill the NPS is trying to pass, she got very emotional and mad--none of us want to loose the heritage that we have been so fortunate to experience in Stehekin.

It is my hope that my kids will be able to have the kind of "real-life" recreational experiences in Stehekin that I had when I was a little girl--where, they can continue to visit Stehekin and create their own memories recreating and vacationing in our unique town of Stehekin.

All those Christmas's, our Summers, even Falls, & Spring; as a little girl, this is what I remember: I remember walking to the Bakery from our privately-owned cabin, walking to the School House from our privately-owned cabin, walking to Rainbow Falls from our privately-owned cabin, hitch-hiking to and from the landing from our privately-owned cabin (we loved our icecream!). And FROM OUR PRIVATELY OWNED CABIN, we would drive to the take-off points, where we experienced big-time hikes to mines and little high country lakes, along springs. I wish some of those trails I used to hike on were still maintained. We loved going to the educational National Park Service events at night--and would not be able to enjoy this experience, if we did not have our privately-owned cabin to go home to sleep in.

It is so very important to us to keep Stehekin's Heritage set up the way it was intended--for everyone's recreation, to use the land responsibly--this will create far more income and revenue for Stehekin than the National Park's intentions of restrict, restrict, restrict. Our forefathers helped make this town successful--let's not loose sight of that, so our kids, grandkids, great grandkids can continue to create new memories, and in the process, support Stehekin's revenue. My daughter told me, I don't ever want to loose Stehekin--I agree! We have NO Intention of ever putting our private property in the position where it could be given up to the government.

The town of Stehekin means more to me than just a bunch of accumulated memories. I, through my ancestors, am part of the history of such a special heritage--this makes me just a little passionate and protective about preserving the community of Stehekin: we the people don't want to loose any more rights, private land, nor anymore of our community's heritage to 'we the people;' In reference to Circular #1: we want our town managed the way it was originally intended. Stehekin was created for the purpose of recreation, NOT for National Park Preservation~NOT for taking our private land away from us. I DO

NOT AGREE that Stehekin should continue to be changed into a National Park reformatory. Please remember what and how Stehekin was set up in the beginning, so you can ... well ... protect "we the individual people."

Respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Who I am:

My Dad is [REDACTED] (Private owner of our family cabin in Stehekin)

[REDACTED] is my Dad's Sister~my Aunt (another Private owner of our family cabin in Stehekin)

[REDACTED] is my Dad's Sister~my Aunt, (another private owner of our family cabin in Stehekin)

[REDACTED] is my Uncle (another private owner of our family cabin in Stehekin)

[REDACTED] is my Dad's Dad

[REDACTED] is my Great Granddad

What myself and my family supports:

Appendix C'the Overlay District needs to be removed from the plan.

I fully support Alternative 5 as presented by John Wilsey, at the meeting on January 10, 2010. Alternative 5 is a very practical management philosophy that fits within the enabling legislation, supports a lively community, public access and a good variety of recreation. Alternative 5 supports land trades that increase or maintain but do not lose existing land base or value. Alternative 5 keeps the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

I believe that supporting these planning objectives and management policies will sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community, as well as improve visitor services.

I do not support moving the NPS maintenance compound as I have not seen a compelling reason. I also disagree with relocation/construction of administrative housing at the north end of the airstrip.

I do not support building a Lower Valley Trail.

I support moving and restoring the road from Car wash Falls to Cottonwood Camp.

I support repairing, maintaining, and protecting the road at its present location from the Landing to Car Wash Falls. I support protecting the road from any further erosion in all likely places.

I fully support these following Ten points written by Stehekin Heritage, members of the community.

10 points

1 ---> • The National Park Service (NPS) join Chelan County and conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.

2 ---> • Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, that the NPS and Chelan County work to enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.

3 ---> • The Land Protection Plan must state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

4 ---> • The NPS should continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.

5 ---> • Change all "acquisition" priorities to read "exchange" priorities. See section 5.2. LPP.

6 ---> • Separate the SRCIP from the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.

7 ---> • If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river, "Let the River Decide" which pieces are most threatened and need prioritized, and trade only those vulnerable lands. Priority lists would be only for trading purposes. Land trades should be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their original piece with all property rights intact. Value is defined not only by dollar amount but also by potential uses of the original property.

8 ---> • Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, to harm the road if allowed to erode.

9 ---> • Remove appendix C ' the Overlay District - from the plan.

10 --> • Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation. Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 12:12 PM

To <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>

cc

Subject Letter re: Stehekin draft plans

Please see attached correspondence.

Thank you for your time and attention to this input on the draft plans.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
February 10, 2011

Superintendent Palmer Jenkins
National Park Service

Dear Sir:

My name is [REDACTED], daughter of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I spent my childhood in the Stehekin Valley. I treasure every opportunity I have to return to see dear friends and reminisce over the unique upbringing life in the Valley provided. I also enjoy escaping the freeways and high-rises of Southern California for the natural beauty of Stehekin. My family continues to maintain property in the Valley. We often discuss and eagerly look forward to future generations of our family having the opportunity to enjoy the Stehekin lifestyle and all that the Valley has to offer.

Please accept this letter in support of the following recommendations created in response to the Stehekin River Corridor Management and Land Protection draft plans:

- * The National Park Service (NPS) join Chelan County and conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
- * Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, that the NPS and Chelan County work to enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
- * The Land Protection Plan must state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
- * The NPS should continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
- * Change all "acquisition" priorities to read "exchange" priorities. See section 5.2. LPP.
- * Separate the SRCIP and the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.
- * If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river, "Let the River Decide" which pieces are most threatened and need prioritized, and trade only those vulnerable lands. Priority lists would be only for trading purposes. Land trades should be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their original piece with all property rights intact. Value is defined not only by dollar amount but also by potential uses of the original property.

Chelan and the reason Stehekin has been featured and promoted in many magazines. I would hope the NPS would be proud that we serve the visitor to the Recreation Area in such a quality manner and work to enhance the visitor experience.

To make the Lake Chelan headwaters accessible, safe and usable to the general public seems to have a great value and impact for visitors to the National Recreation Area. If protection, planning and money is spent by the NPS for a private business to serve the visitor better, then why not assist other businesses in the same manner and increase enjoyment of this area for all!. The bottom line is that this private enterprise CAN buy property for its business purposes of rafting, protect and improve this property with their own money just as the other businesses in the valley have done. I support whole heartedly the rafting project if this planning supports also the general public safety, beauty and use of the Headwaters for the public and other businesses but do not support this being the only and exclusive business to benefit from the NPS River Management Plan.

There is a huge safety issue when the logs at the Headwaters become dislodged and are a danger to all boaters. This seems to be a much more urgent matter. If the NPS is assisting private businesses (to improve their business) then we would like to request the NPS remove the stumps and logs from Silver Bay area and restore the safety for guests coming and going from this recreation area and improve access for all boaters to Silver Bay and the River Resort, and help prevent sediment build-up which is crucial to prevent flooding of private property. This request seems to be in the same vein of "public good" and enhanced visitor experience. In fairness, I would hope the NPS would respond to other crucial needs even if it serves to help private business. This will certainly eliminate the appearance of preferential treatment.

It was stated in your research that woody debris build up and log jams has increased dramatically in the last 10 years so ...isn't it time to give back the lake to recreation? The alluvial plain is high and dry about 7 months of the year and therefore is not a breeding ground for fish and it is not even technically lake...just a reservoir for making money for the PUD.

I am sure you have heard many of these concerns before but I would hope that since your River Management Plan is still considering input...I would hope that if you are protecting and assisting private businesses that you would direct some of your concern to the general public's use and safety of Lake Chelan's most scenic and beautiful headwaters area.

Thank you for your time, effort and consideration in this matter. We do appreciate all your efforts and improvements on behalf of the valley and the visitor.

[REDACTED]

* Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, to harm the road if allowed to erode.

* Remove appendix C, the Overlay District, from the plan.

* Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation. Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

I strongly believe these changes are in the best interests of all those who value the Stehekin Valley, residents as well as visitors. It is my sincere hope that the input of those who have cherished and enjoyed the Valley for decades will be seriously considered when completing the Stehekin River Corridor Management and Land Protection plans.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 02:01 PM

To Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov

cc

Subject RE: Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Draft Land Protection Plan 2010 (LPP)

11 February 2011

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

I am writing to express my serious concern with the two draft plans that NPS has proposed for acquiring and managing land in the Stehekin Valley: the SRCIP and the LPP.

The Stehekin Valley has been home to my ancestors, the [REDACTED], since it was first developed more than a century ago. My paternal grandmother and her sisters were born and raised in Stehekin. Her husband/my grandfather ran a mining operation in the area, and my extended family owns several private lots in the valley. In short, Stehekin has always been a wonderful place to visit and live. Beginning with my ancestors, and other homesteading families like them, the valley was settled privately and became a thriving community of people who love the outdoors and the serenity of living in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. They settled the land, built homesteads, raised families, and earned a living from the land long before NPS managers came to the valley.

The Stehekin I know is a private community of people who have chosen to live in the valley for more than a century. I have visited Stehekin for more than 30 years, and my family has forged lasting ties with the Stehekin community that I am pained to see jeopardized by the apparent plans of NPS to slowly squeeze out private property ownership in the valley.

For my entire life I have watched as NPS slowly eroded the ability of individual citizens to gain access to Park land, and has steadily driven out private property owners from the valley. The draft plans proposed by NPS represent the latest in a series of efforts by your agency to slowly convert the valley into the equivalent of a glass-enclosed nature exhibit: a place that is beautiful to admire from afar, but only accessible to the privileged few NPS employees entrusted with its care. Preservation of community life in the Stehekin Valley should be a core priority for NPS. Sadly, NPS seems to view private property owners in the valley as a hindrance, with little understanding or acknowledgment of the private history of settlement in the valley and with no effort to integrate NPS's mission of protection with the reality of community living.

Stehekin is a special place, and I strongly urge you to reverse your current course and proactively work with the Stehekin community and the Stehekin Heritage Subcommittee to protect the property rights and character of the Stehekin community. I believe that the community and the NPS can work together to strike the right balance between protection and access, and public and private use of the land. To that end, I ask you to please cooperate with the suggestions outlined below by the Stehekin Heritage Subcommittee, which I fully support:

1. We request that NPS cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We request that NPS continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities.
6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.
8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.
9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.
10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.
11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: Chip Jenkins <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/11/2011 10:20PM

Subject: NPS

Superintendent Chip Jenkins,

After receiving the NPS management packet, I was very much surprised to see that all private property in the Stehekin Valley was rated for acquisition, from low to high priority, and it was stated that they (the NPS) wanted willing sellers. In the next paragraph, they stated that they would utilize eminent domain if they (the NPS) felt it was in the best interest of the community. The private property owners are the community. Without them, Stehekin will cease to exist as it has been known for at least the last 100 years.

This is being done with the pretense that we are in a flood zone, and the Park no longer wants to be responsible for maintaining property as risk. We don't want the Park Service to be responsible for our property. We the private land owner are responsible for our own property.

Then there is the economic impact on the community and Chelan County. The NPS has already removed approximately 1300 acres from the tax base, and will remove another 413 acres if this is allowed to pass. It amazes me, especially now at a time when the federal government has a 14 trillion dollar defect, that the NPS is going to utilize tax payer dollars to purchase private property.

When we first moved to Stehekin, I was told that the NPS wanted all private citizens out of Stehekin, I thought people were being paranoid. After hearing that the NPS, with tax payer dollars had already purchased 1300 acres and now wants to purchase the remaining 413 acres, it is not hard to understand that this is a reality, not paranoia! The NPS will have it's own little tax payer supported community. If somehow NPS acquires property, it needs to be a land swap with no net loss or gain of privately owned property.

The existing road should be maintained and protected from the river in it's present location. I firmly believe in and support the summary statement of the Stehekin Heritage committee.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 04:51 PM

To Chip Jenkins <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>

cc

Subject NPS

As property owners in the Stehekin Valley, my husband [REDACTED] and I have concerns about the NPS's intentions to acquire our home, whether we are willing to sell or not. They have threatened to take it by imminent domain!

Over time since 1968 when the NPS first arrived, they have acquired 75% of the originally privately owned property, and still want more. It is apparent that the NPS does not want the residents of Stehekin to continue to live, run businesses, and thrive in the valley, when in fact, they (the residents) were here first!

Stehekin is a most unique and beautiful valley made up of a community of close and supportive neighbors. It is a self sufficient community, but without the viability of their businesses, Stehekin will cease to exist.

We are in full agreement with the proposals of the Stehekin Heritage committee.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 03:05 PM

To Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

cc

Subject Stehekin Community and NPS Draft Plans

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

I am writing because I am concerned about the NPS plans to acquire private property in Stehekin. Stehekin is a unique community, and as such, has changed and benefited many people, including myself and my family. I very much hope that this special place will not disappear and that the NPS will do all it can to protect the private sector of Stehekin. I support the eleven points laid out by Stehekin Heritage and hope you will do the same.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.

4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.

5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities.

6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in it original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

Thank you in advance,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov
From: [REDACTED]
Sent by: [REDACTED]
Date: 02/11/2011 11:10PM
Subject: Stehekin LPP and SRCIP

Dear Chip Jenkins,

I am writing in support of the eleven recommendations made by the Stehekin Heritage Foundation. I am sure that you have received many letters and emails supporting the incredible work done by the Stehekin community, so I will try to be brief. I am a graduate student studying environmental literature and activism in America, and a common lament today in my field is that the methods the government took to protect wilderness areas had the unfortunate consequences of contributing to the separation between nature and people. This division contributes to our current ecological crisis, and we have few contemporary models that show us how humans can live caringly in their places. The Stehekin community is one such model. Thus I urge you to do all in your power to ensure its continued health, which means being responsive not only to the needs of the non-human creatures that live within your jurisdiction, but also to the needs of the human community who share this place and call it home.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

To: Chip Jenkins <Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/11/2011 08:43PM

Subject: Stehekin

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

As a Stehekin resident and property owner, I am writing in complete support of the work of the Stehekin Heritage Group, and would like to urge you to consider their recommendations.

The continuation of the Stehekin community and way of life is very important to me and my family.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
11/05/2010 04:37 PM

To noca_superintendent@nps.gov
cc
Subj Stehekin River Plan
ect

In January of this year I sent an email to Senator Patty Murray about the Stehekin Valley Road. About locating the road on higher ground to reduce the chance of damage during floods. I strongly support the rebuilding of the Stehekin Valley Road as it provides access to some very remote areas.

One of the issues is that moving the road would affect the Pacific Crest Trail. I suggested that the PCT be moved east at the road crossing and loop around to the north on an existing trail that would need improvements to meet the PCT standards. The current placement of the PCT follows along the north side of the Stehekin Valley Road for some distance and is not a real positive experience for PCT users.

Let me know if you would like more details about my suggested alternate route for the PCT.

I have hiked into Stehekin on three different trips on the PCT and have travelled up the lake to stay in Stehekin in the winter to snowshoe and enjoy the area. The area is beautiful and needs to be preserved for multiple uses for future visitors.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: <Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/11/2011 10:34PM

cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: NPS draft Land Protection Plan and Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

February 11, 2011

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

I respectfully request and encourage you to support the eleven recommendations as drafted by Stehekin Heritage. Your leadership is critical and necessary to meet the intention of enabling legislation and insure the viability of the Stehekin Community into the future.

Stehekin is home in my heart. My Stehekin roots began with my father, [REDACTED], when he came to the Valley in the early 1930's. As a civil engineer, he led a team of CCC 's in varied construction projects including, Agnes Gorge Bridge, Bridge Creek, High Bridge, Boulder Creek, Forest Service buildings near the Landing, Prince Creek Boy Scout Camp to name a few. Following my parents marriage in June, 1935 and my birth in May, 1936, we lived off and on in the Valley for a number of years. Our family was particularly close to the Buckner Family and I have fond memories of living in the Buzzard Cabin as a little girl. Our family was Stehekin residents again following World War II with the purchase of Golden West Lodge in 1951. Golden West became the vehicle by which we could live in Stehekin once again. Regrettably, we left the Valley a couple of years after my father's death in 1953 and the loss of Golden West. A few years later, my mother was required to sell our property on the Company Creek side of the Stehekin River . It has been fifty-five years since I last lived in Stehekin. However, since my marriage almost 50 years ago, my husband, two daughters, and nine -year old granddaughter look forward to our Stehekin time every summer.

I share my "roots" story as one who does not own property in the Stehekin Valley, but as one who knows and has lived the gift of the Stehekin Community and shares it with family and friends. The endurance of the Stehekin Community is what is on my heart and why I write to you. As North Cascades National Park Superintendent you have courage, skill and leadership to advocate and support the changes in management policy that will be required if the Stehekin Community is to endure.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/11/2011 10:19PM

Subject: Keeping Stehekin a community

Superintendent Jenkins,

My name is [REDACTED] and I first came to Stehekin for visits when my dad took an electrical job for the Golden West Remodel. He moved to Stehekin with my younger brother. In that year I saw a complete change in my brother and his abilities in school. Over time I got to know the residents and have come to call many of them close friends.

After graduating High School I moved to Stehekin and worked at the Stehekin Bakery. I still believe this will always be remembered as my best Summer. I have come to love and cherish Stehekin and still visit multiple times a year. I spend time putting trips together for friends hoping to introduce them to this incredible community you can not find anywhere else. Stehekin is one of the most unique places I have ever visited.

I still hope that one day I will be able to live there again and bring my future children to a place with such an amazing community. Without this community Stehekin would not be the same. I do not feel it would be somewhere to visit as often or bring people to. I truly feel the community is what makes it so special.

I have ready and I fully endorse and support the Stehekin Heritage summary statement (revised 2/7/11) Draft LPP & SRCIP.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 03:52 PM

To Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

cc

Subject Draft Land Protection Plan

February 11, 2011

National Park Service Email: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins Phone: (360) 854-7200

810 Washington 20

Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Superintendent Jenkins ,

As property owners and part time residents in the Stehekin valley, we would encourage NPS to seriously consider the Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement (see attachment 1) in regards to the "LPP" and "SRCIP" plans. The survival of Stehekin depends on the survival of the private community. Every year hundreds of visitors visit the Stehekin Pastry Co. and the Stehekin Valley Ranch. A great number are repeat visitors. "Crest Trail" hikers hear stories of the bakery for a thousand miles. Many tourists are attracted to Stehekin by the private accommodations offered by the valley residents. Numerous properties on the "high" priority list have been featured in national magazines, attracting hundreds of visitors each year. Horseback trips, rafting and fishing adventures are all offered by the private sector. We feel that it is imperative that there be an independent, unbiased, study of what is needed to support the existence of the private community of Stehekin.

The Stehekin community personalizes and adds richness to the visitor's experience.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attachment 1

Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement -(revised 2/7/11)

Draft LPP and SRCIP

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.

2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
- .
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities. See section 5.2
6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.
8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.
9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.
10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.
11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in it original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 02:48 PM

To <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>

cc

Subject Stehekin Heritage

Attached please find a letter intended to serve as public comment regarding the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Draft Land Protection Plan 2010 (LPP).

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]
same as attached letter

Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins

810 Washington 20

Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

RE: Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Draft Land Protection Plan 2010 (LPP)

11 February 2011

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

Stehekin is as much "home" to me as any place on the planet. My great grandfather [REDACTED] lived there as proprietor of the Field Hotel. My grandmother [REDACTED] was born in Stehekin. My mother [REDACTED] was raised in Stehekin and continues to spend 6 months of each year there. While my family spent the bulk of my childhood living in Latin America, our trips back to the United States were always planned around coming to Stehekin to visit my grandfather [REDACTED]. As a child, I knew I was almost home when the Lady of the Lake rounded the bend and Stehekin first came into view.

Stehekin is defined both by its physical beauty and by its unique community. The presence of this community allows people visiting the park to experience a slice of American heritage that is vibrantly alive in the present, and the community warrants protection as much as do the mountains within the park boundaries.

The National Park Service website states:

We are proud that tribes, local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individual citizens ask for our help in revitalizing their communities, preserving local history, celebrating local heritage, and creating close to home opportunities for kids and families to get outside, be active, and have fun....

Taking care of the national parks and helping Americans take care of their communities is a job we love, and we need – and welcome – your help and support.

The actions presented in the LPP and the SRCIP plans, in particular continued acquisition of private property by the NPS, threaten the Stehekin community and conflicts directly with the stated mission of the NPS. This conflict is troubling and confusing. The fact that a community that NPS is supposed to 'revitalize' and 'protect' has had to organize itself to fight the shortsighted and unfortunate land-acquisition effort of NPS underscores the extent of the violation of the trust placed in your agency that this plan represents.

I applaud and support the NPS when it stays true to their own principles, as neatly illustrated with the

excerpt taken from nps.gov. However, 'supporting local heritage' and 'helping Americans take care of their communities' does not mean buying up all of the land in adjacent National Recreation Area and restricting access to the park. I hope that NPS will reconsider the ill-fated provisions outlined in the LPP and SCRIP, and will cooperate with the suggestions outlined by the Stehekin Heritage Sub-Committee, which I fully support and which is outlined below:

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.

2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.

3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.

4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.

5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities.

6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in it original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 04:41 PM

To <noca_superintendent@nps.gov>, <martin.doern@mail.house.gov>, <maria@cantwell.senate.gov>, <joel_merkel@cantwell.senate.gov>, <mather@cantwell.senate.gov>, <parlette.linda@leg.wa.gov>, <patty@murray.senate.gov>, <jaime_shimek@murray.senate.gov>

cc

Subject Stehekin River

February 10, 2011

National Park Service

Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins

810 Washington 20

Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

I am writing in response to the proposed Stehekin River Corridor Plan and Land Protection Plan.

As a property owner on the Stehekin River, we have experienced first hand the results of recent flooding. However, I feel more threatened by the prioritization of my property than I do the river. The original intent of congress was to protect the natural resources of the North Cascades and community of Stehekin. The preservation of the community can only be accomplished if there is no net loss of private property. The LLP prioritization of the remaining private property implies the NPS should be acquiring virtually all of the private property in the valley. I am in favor of a moratorium on all further private property land acquisition unless it is an exchange for land of comparable value/size. Much more federal land would need to be made available for exchange if the intent is truly to support removing threatened private properties along the river corridor. I would request the National Park Service and Chelan County do an impact analysis on the effect of continued land acquisition on the community of Stehekin. The proposals to protect the road (what little is still available for public use) should be a high priority as well as the restoration of riverbank at the Buckner Homestead.

Thank you for considering my comments,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: Congressman Doc Hastings

Senator Maria Cantwell

Senator Linda Evans Parlette

Senator Patty Murray

Chelan County Commissioner Doug England

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 04:12 PM

To <Chip_jenkins@nps.gov>

cc

Subject Response to NPS Draft SRCIP and LPP

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

I am writing because it has been brought to my attention that there are Documents being developed that have the potential to impact the Stehekin Valley and Community.

My wife and I have been visiting your park for over 30 years. We have traveled extensively around this country and abroad, and are aware of the very special qualities of Stehekin. We have visited the Stehekin Valley many times, and have spent extended vacations there. We love the community. Stehekin is especially dear to us because our daughter and her family live there. We were initially intrigued by the community and her connection to it, and over the years, we have watched our grandchildren grow to adulthood in that semi-remote valley. We are now delighted to have GREAT-grandchildren benefitting from the unique opportunities (educational, social and physical) available in Stehekin.

It is our hope that the National Park Service will cooperate with Chelan County in determining the minimum amount of property essential to the survival of a healthy private community in the Stehekin Valley. Our suggestion would be to petition the Government Accountability Office to reopen the investigation that was done in the early 1980's - assessing compliance with existing rules, regulations and laws.

We believe that land trades should continue, but would prefer seeing the river controlled in such a way that the private property would not be under constant threat. We support dredging, rock barbs and any other erosion control or bank hardening techniques available. Stehekin IS unique, and the original legislation supported a continuing private community in the Stehekin Valley. Before the NPS came into the valley, the local residents were able to control the river by dredging and removal of log jams. The Stehekin River Valley is narrow -and an uncontrolled river will be forever destroying property and limiting recreational opportunities in the LCNRA. The engineering know-how is out there, we support the NPS' taking the steps necessary to use it.

We are also in favor of leaving the road in its present alignment and re-opening the road to Cottonwood. Though we are beyond the age that would allow us to hike to the end of the old road, we have many happy memories of drives to the Cottonwood. We believe that a drive into the heart of the mountains was part of the reason that North Cascades National Park was established. It allowed people who were not among the young, or super-fit population to experience the wonder and majesty of the "heart of the mountains". It would be a terrible shame to have that experience lost to the public.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 08:16 AM

To undisclosed-recipients;;

cc

Subject Response to NPS Draft Documents

February 11, 2011

National Park Service
Attention: Chip Jenkins
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Re: Drafts -SRCIP and Land Protection Plan

Dear Superintendent Chip Jenkins

We want to thank you for moving the deadline for response to the Draft plans ahead two months. The extension allowed a number of us to evaluate the documents in a more thorough manner than would have been an option otherwise. We also want to thank you for bringing your team to Stehekin in January to meet with concerned citizens, answer some questions and hear some of our concerns.

We raised our children in Stehekin, and now our grandchildren are living in the valley. Our grandchildren have the unique experience of being the 6th generation of their family to live in the upper Lake Chelan Basin. We have a deep attachment to Stehekin and recognize its value - not just for our own family, but for the community and the visiting public who are drawn to the beauty, and the unique sense of community here. We have seen many changes which have altered the character of this community - some of those changes are related to the passage of time, others are a direct result of the NPS management policies.

There are many points in the draft documents that have the potential to significantly impact the future of the Stehekin Community. We believe that the concerted effort of the Stehekin Heritage group has allowed us to come up with responses to a number of the major points presented in the draft plans.

In the establishment of the LCNRA it was never the intent that Stehekin should become a "living-history" experience for the visiting public --in the sense that people could come and see what life in Stehekin was like 100 years ago. The legislation was not meant to capture and keep the community as it was in 1968. We understand that the intent of the original legislation was to allow a private community to continue to exist - responding to the changing times - in a remote and isolated valley.

When we first read the Land Protection Plan (LPP) - we felt a more appropriate name for that document would be Land Acquisition Plan. The first reading of the LPP made us aware of the need for a Community Protection Plan. We believe the private Stehekin Community is something that needs to be preserved and protected. The language in the LPP makes it quite clear that the NPS considers privately held property within the LCNRA undesirable. The document states that of the 417 acres owned privately only 4.7 acres

are LOW priority for acquisition by the federal government. All other private property is medium or high priority for acquisition. For many of the property owners in Stehekin, it felt as though a target was placed on our backs.

One question we struggle with here is - Where are the checks and balances that are supposed to be built into the governing of the United States of America? In 1981, the Government Accountability Office (GAO - an independent nonpartisan federal agency that acts as the investigative arm of Congress making the executive branch accountable to Congress and the government accountable to citizens of the United States) did an extensive investigation. Part of the summary following their investigation reads as follows:

"Through the law which established this area, it was congressional intent that land acquisition costs be minimal, that a private community in the recreation area continue to exist, that commercial development not be eliminated, and that additional compatible development be permitted to accommodate increased visitor use. . .NPS has not acted in accordance with congressional intent."

We are aware of the conflict that exists between the private sector and the federal government within the small Stehekin Valley. We have been involved in many meetings through the years and do not like the direction that management policies have taken the community. We are asked for our opinions, our input, our suggestions --and then the policies are developed with very little consideration for the private community, or our input. If the National Park Service can be told by the Government Accountability Office that what they have done is not acceptable -- and NOT ONE of the GAO's recommendations are fully complied with --how can a small, year-round community of less than 70 adults expect to be heard? It feels a little like the man in Tiananmen Square facing the tanks.

We know that you have asked what's so different about the present Land Protection Plan and the one that was developed 15+ years ago. Actually, there isn't too much difference. In 1995, it was a threat to the Stehekin Community. It is just spelled out a bit more forcefully this go-round. We didn't like it then, but perhaps in some ways we ought to be thankful for the way the present draft plan was written. We don't have to sound like conspiracy theorist when we say the NPS wants to get rid of the private sector in Stehekin -- the document says it for us.

Maybe now is the time to change some of the policies that have been developed since the original legislation creating the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (LCNRA) was enacted. Do you think that could be possible? The argument is out there that, yes, the GAO report made some recommendations, but Congress continued to appropriate funds for land acquisition. Therefore it's OK for the NPS to continue to acquire private land. That's like a child being told by Dad, before he goes out the door, not to take any more cookies from the cookie jar. Jr. continues to help himself to cookies, and Mom doesn't know that Jr. is taking cookies in direct disobedience - - but Jr. knows it's wrong. It seems the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing in regards to Stehekin. The NPS is not a government unto itself. There is certainly supposed to be accountability. The original legislation provided for the things that we are working to preserve. . . a community, a land base, business opportunities.

Stehekin Heritage's list of points-to-support is a starting place. There are many things in the draft SRCIP, LPP and EIS that are contentious, and because they are not mentioned here we don't mean to suggest that we agree with them. We believe all the documents are seriously flawed because they are based on policy that is contrary to the original governing legislation.

We would be interested in being involved in crafting some documents that support a vital, private community in the present generation, and on into the future. We have been blessed to be able to raise

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11/07/2010 01:43 AM MST
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: road reroute and wilson creek

Hi Chip,
Please find attached some more words from us regarding the proposed Wilson Creek work and road reroute extension.

We are also mailing via USPS today a signed copy.

We will be traveling around for the next month in Washington and a little bit in Oregon and probably will check email once a week.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

November 6, 2010
Superintendent
North Cascades National Park
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley , Washington 98284

Dear Chip,

Thanks for your last letter, we are glad to hear that there will be some extensive forest fuel reduction and forest thinning in the area surrounding our property. Yes, we remember the treatment done by NPS crews for defensible space within a certain distance from our buildings on NPS land , but what we have been asking for is the full on treatment for a much broader area that is our neighborhood, from Wilson Creek to McGregor Meadows, Similar to the NPS work done in at Company Creek , Rainbow/Boulder, Coon Run and at 7 mile. So, glad to hear that is happening soon.

We are writing to further the discussion on the work proposed at Wilson Creek by NPS. The work will require the use of our land for an access road and will have impacts on our property located there.

We would also like to further the discussion on extending the proposed road reroute two tenths of a mile so that the reroute would go around our property where our buildings and residence are located.

We feel that resolving both issues at the same time would be in the public interest, would benefit NPS and would benefit us. There are mutual needs and mutual benefits and benefits to the public.

A couple things we noticed at the public comment meeting in Stehekin at the Golden West about the new raft and kayak pull out/put in, seem to relate to our issues.

our children in the Stehekin Valley – on the land that their grandparents loved, and from which their living was made. We dream of a future for our grandchildren in Stehekin, if they so choose. This valley and community are worth preserving – with mindful intention, and management policies that are not left up to the whim of the next Superintendent or the one 30 years down the road. We believe that if there are well thought-out documents in place, which champion the cause of a vibrant sustainable community, it will be easier to create other management policies that are not as contentious as the years go by.

We support the following 11 points:

Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement -(revised 2/7/11)
Draft LPP and SRCIP

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the "acquisition" priorities to "exchange" priorities. See section 5.2
6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.
8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.
9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.
10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.
11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.
Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in it original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

We thank you for the opportunity to respond to these Draft documents. And we hope that we can work together with you toward a bright future for the cooperative relationship between the NPS and the private community.

We are not sure where to take our concerns so they will be heard. Where could the Native Americans go when the treaties they had signed were not honored by the signers?

with respect and sincerity -

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc:

Stehekin Heritage

Representative Jay Inslee

Representative Doc Hastings

Senator Linda Evans Parlette

Chelan County Commissioner Doug England

Chelan County Commissioner Keith Goehner

Chelan County Commissioner Ron Walter

Todd Young, Chief of Staff for the Natural Resource Committee in the House

Representative Mike Armstrong

Representative Cary Condotta

Mike Kaputa, Director, Chelan County Natural Resource Department

Jon Riedel, Geologist, North Cascades National Park

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 02/11/2011 08:06PM
Subject: Comments on SRCIP and Draft LPP

Chip,

Please find my comments attached.

Thanks very much.

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

February 11, 2011

National Park Service Email: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov
Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins Phone: (360) 854-7200
810 Washington 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Re: SRCIP and Draft Land Protection Plan

Dear Chip,

Please accept my comments to the Draft LPP and the SRCIP with your fullest attention and sincerity. Thank-you for all the hard work on the two plans and thank-you for the time spent and hours worked coordinating the meetings in Stehekin and elsewhere.

Thanks to Stehekin Heritage for the time, effort, research, energy and thoroughness reviewing the plans, I can say with confidence that I agree with their eleven points. I support these points fully:

1) We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.

I don't believe the NPS did this and I feel it to be crucial to officially determine the effects on our community. If the community land base continues to diminish, we won't HAVE a community.

2) Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.

At one of Superintendent Bill Palleck's early trips to Stehekin, I was the first person to stand up at a meeting about the upper Stehekin Valley road. I carried a large object to the front of the room with me and unveiled a 4' X 8' mounted photo of the Stehekin Community. I stated loud and clear, pointing to the photo, "THIS is who you need to be listening to!" Again I say, please listen to the Stehekin Community.

These plans affect our lives here, our homes, our dear families and neighbors. Planning decisions matter significantly to us. It's only fair that federal land purchases cease while a socio-economic study is

undertaken.

3) We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.

This is KEY: "With no net loss of land identified for trade purposes..."

4) If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.

Please expand the amount of land identified for trade purposes. If land owners do need to trade, it's going to be difficult, unless there is more available.

5) Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities. See section 5.2

The word, 'acquisition' can mean TAKE, right from the get-go. 'Exchange' however, is interpreted as trade and not so threatening. I worry about our community's future, as far as the land base and a "take" attitude. Changing this wording makes the document clear and leaves room for the future of the Stehekin community as intended by law. Please don't leave room for multiple interpretations.

6) It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

I totally agree with this as well. While I am fairly confident that the NPS supports an active community here, I would feel much better if it is actually stated in the document. Congress intended this. It doesn't keep the NPS from providing what they already do for the public. It doesn't steer the NPS away from their own beliefs. The statement strengthens who they are by "overtly" stating they support the community here in Stehekin as a living cultural history of a fragile place. We are just as fragile as the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. We are just as fragile as lands in the park. It's just that we need to be recognized as such.

7) Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

While Appendix C – The Stehekin Valley Overlay District consists of some noble ideas, it basically humiliates us. We, as a community, KNOW what is compatible. We as a community have worked with Chelan County for years, obtaining building permits, getting advice on structure of buildings, water, sewer and other agencies requiring permits. Why does the NPS think they need to be a part of all that? It feels like a slap in the face. It feels like the NPS wants to hold our hand, when we don't want our hand held!

8) As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

I totally agree with this. Because there are so many concerned residents that don't support the LPP as written, PLEASE extend the timetable for reworking all the above mentioned issues.

9) Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

I was on the public river walk with Jon Riedel and the public road walk that followed the next day. At the time of the road walk, I felt a new road route would be doable – expensive but doable. It did leave me feeling unsure and unsteady for the property owners below the proposed new road. It seemed as if they would become an island, not by water surrounding them but by not having good road access once the new road was built.

I support maintenance of the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location. I am going to take an environmental standpoint on this. I don't want that big of an area disturbed. Let's keep the road the way it is so the public and the wildlife have more land to use and treasure as a whole. I also believe it would be less costly to maintain what we have than to create a whole new section of road.

10) Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

Agree! This is one of the areas of the LPP that is most upsetting to me. (I probably need more specific information to respond fully.) First of all, lumping the maintenance facility and employment housing (up to 11 units) together in a small area, goes against the statement on page four of the LPP 1.3, Management Goal/ Objectives: "...ensure that land uses on public and private lands are compatible with the purposes of LCNRA,..." Does the NPS seriously think putting up to eleven housing units and a maintenance facility in one small area, as suggested, compatible?

In addition to that, valley residents who own private land and government employees who do not, live as neighbors, interwoven into the community. To separate government employees, putting them in a compound, by themselves, doesn't seem conducive to neighborly integration within this tight knit community. I propose that the NPS provide the community with more information regarding new facilities please. In summary, this plan for new facilities, if carried out, would have a detrimental impact on the cultural and natural environment of Stehekin.

11) Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

I support this. None of the alternatives(1-4) state, nor have mention of common sense, practicality, or, support of our existing community, or, the community of the future.

Respectfully submitted,

██████████
██████████
██

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/12/2011 04:06AM

Subject: I support the Stehekin Heritage group

I support the Stehekin Heritage group.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 11:25 AM

To chip_jenkins@nps.gov

cc

Subject STEHEKIN!

I support the Stehekin community in its hope to sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 01:10 PM

To <Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov>

cc

Subject Stehekin Recommendations

TO:

National Park Service

Attention: Superintendent Chip Jenkins

810 Washington 20

Sedro-Wooley, WA 98284

I am responding to the NPS draft Land Protection (LPP) and Stehekin River Corridor Implementation (SRCIP) plans.

I believe these plans offer you the chance to support the changes in management policy required if the Stehekin Community is to endure.

My late husband [REDACTED], and I and our 3 children have been visiting Stehekin since 1987. We purchased Logger Point and built a cabin there. We chose this community as our love for the wilderness experience and way of life kept bringing us back over and over. We needed to experience the beauty, quiet and sheer magnificence of the mountains and lake. Our family still chooses this community and way of life. My husband lost his life there in the float plane crash, but I know he would be working hard with the Stehekin Heritage to have you support their eleven summary recommendations because he believed in private property ownership in Stehekin and would favor changing acquisition priorities to exchange priorities.

I support the recommendations of the Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement.

Especially:

#6. Support the LPP to state...management goal of the NPS to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin..

#8 concerning river management and to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

#11. Support Alternative 5 -

Please enable legislation to insure the viability of the Stehekin Community into the future.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Homeowner, Stehekin, WA

To: <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/11/2011 06:17PM

Subject: Stehekin

To: N.P.S. Superintendent Palmer Jenkins

Reference: SRCIP, LLP

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

I would like to open this letter to you referencing the American Heritage and its slow and impending decline. It sometimes seems hopeless when a true value is sought in life these days, sitting in a downtown anywhere USA watching the faces of the people as they shuffle by intent on getting to the next point of their day not really understanding where the reason of their purpose lies. The airport where people can't even look at one another anymore to smile or partake of conversation with others around them but instead hide behind their cell phones or close their eyes disappearing into their ipods or other objects of numbness. The world is a tragedy changing place but yet in the midst of all that is impersonal and inattentive, what looms with a warming glow in many Americans is a wonderment, a story of how things were, how they still can be in a place called "The way through" Stehekin. Stehekin truly is the way through for most all who visit her and is never forgotten. It is then talked about and traded when stories are shared over a glass of wine or perhaps a cigar and a pour of fine scotch with friends.

Stehekin is a treasure that's brought out of an attic and dusted off to be remembered with heartfelt fondness and emotion. But when all is said and done, the uniqueness is that she is still there able to be adorned and experienced not just as a memory but as an obtainable presence. The Stehekin experience is obtained in many ways, one of which is the National Park Services many boating and camping attributes which are very important and provide a crucial past due to Stehekin's remoteness. But when carefully unfolded Stehekin is, was, and should remain forever just as is began, and as the people of this United States of America should always remain of the people by the people and for the people, free! The Stehekin experience is also obtained by arriving by the float plane or passenger ferry service to get there since; no roads have ever been passable to cut in from the lower Chelan basin. When people arrive they are picked up by citizens of the community of Stehekin and taken too many different cabins owned by these residents, there by developing relationships and experiences and life styles never known to exist in their life and times. A place where school children are not taught how to pass tests but how to live, how to think and to not think just for themselves today but for all concerned for years to come. A place where residents still have picnics and homemade delights made with love and care not purchased in a hurried fashion from a chain store, but constructed with intent to please. Stehekin is a place where someone can go and learn what they have lost even if they never experienced it before in their life. Stehekin is truly the way through.

To make further moves forward using money the U. S. Government doesn't have to make purchases not necessary is not the answer to this problem by any stretch of the imagination. My father told me years ago if you desire something think about if for a year, if at the end of that year you still desire it, then go ahead and get it. This old formula fits this concept in two ways

1. When an agency starts with something sometimes over the years the reason they started is forgotten and they keep going just because, but really maybe at the end of the year they realize that acquiring more when there is no money and when there is no purpose within reason doesn't make sense.
2. Many People have thought about Stehekin for a year and at the end of that year still wanted it but were

unable to purchase because of lack of inventory of land, or maybe funds, or there was too much distance and it didn't make sense for them, but knowing they could come back and stay with residents in their rental cabins or as guests with friends was re-assuring and warming to know.

A community cannot survive if resources and land are taken away!

Please consider conducting a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin community.

Please also work with Chelan County to enact an immediate moratorium on Federal Fiscally irresponsible purchase of private property in the Stehekin Valley.

Please reword the land protection plan to state that it is the management goal of the National Park Service to support and active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and we of the Lake Chelan National Recreation area.

Please also continue to honor current land trade activity with no net loss of private property land base value.

Let the river decide which pieces are most threatened and need prioritized as it has for years before. Priority lists would be used only for trading purposes.

Please maintain the Stehekin Valley road at its present location and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty to harm the road if allowed to erode. Please separate the SRCIP and the LPP.

Please remove appendix C- the overlay district from the plan. Please support Alternative 5 for a common sense practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community public access and recreation.

Funding is now being cut at all levels of Government as you are obviously aware, further cutting away at services that are basic to the residents and guests of the Stehekin Valley such as maintenance of roads, paving, filling, plowing, sanitation services, maintenance of docks and camp sites and trail maintenance these are the duties the Park Service, should strive to maintain. The acquisition of more land under the façade of river and natural resources protection should not be even a consideration when the erosion of the community is at stake.

I do not go out and acquire more rental homes when I can't make the payments on the ones I have and I certainly don't forge currency to pay my debts when it's not only morally unsound but illegal as well. The Governing Fathers should lead by example and choose what is best for not just a few for now, but best for all for the future.

Mr. Jenkins, Stehekin has been an example of the American spirit for years and growth of population to a problem number would never occur simply because of area and seasonality and location, but to take away what is and has been sustainable would be simply unjust.

With Sincere Regards,

████████████████████

First of all we are not opposed to that location for the aquatic access.

However, it is our understanding that because of the length of time that the road has gone into into the River Resort , passing thru Jim Clarks property , that road would be considered a public road in the state of Washington.

The proposed plan wants to put a new road in, that would no longer pass thru Jim Clark's property which is clearly a benefit to the Clark's . It doesn't appear that the Clark's have to agree to anything else "in trade" for moving the existing road off their property.

So while it would be interesting in resolving our issues to work a trade with the Wilson Creek work using our property for access and raw materials in exchange for extending the reroute two tenths of a mile, we don't feel that this needs to be a straight trade. It almost seems as though it would be a prejudice against us, since apparently the Clark's don't have to give anything up.

Also the rock stabilizing work for the raft/kayak access will clearly benefit the River Resort in regards to flood events and river movement within the CMZ . It doesn't appear that the River Resort owners have to make any concessions to NPS for this benefit. In fact it looks like the main benefits of this raft/kayak access between Clark's and River Resort will primarily benefit private property and the rafting concession business.

In some ways the public will be shortchanged because the rafts would no longer get into the Lake Chelan/Stehekin River interface which has much birdlife for example. Just as an alternative, the NPS owned Picken property across the full pool channel from Silver Bay could be used instead and it already has a road into it.

At Wilson Creek there is the issue of the NPS use of resources (rock and trees) on site that we own. Since NPS would not have to barge materials up to build the access road and build the barbs, our resources used by NPS would be valuable. There is value to the timber and mineral resources. Having talked with Tunnel Hill Granite and Courtney Barge, we estimate that it would cost NPS about \$50,000 for materials for the proposed barbs. This includes buying the rock, barging it uplake and multiple handling getting it to the site.

There is also an emotional and sentimental value for us with that part of our property.

If we grant NPS access will we still be allowed to extract resources as we have historically in that area and will we be able to use the NPS built access road?

The work NPS proposes at Wilson Creek may very well protect the public road but will increase erosion to our property via the 2nd culvert that will be installed and send more water across our property. The barbs themselves will contribute to erosion and threaten our property downstream and also possibly our property across the river from Wilson Creek.

Our property where the buildings are has survived two 500 year flood events in the past 7 years and numerous 100 year flood events since 1948.

What are the guarantees that after NPS does this work at Wilson Creek that it won't adversely affect our property upstream and ultimately cause the river to threaten our gardens, buildings and residence?

To throw out another thought—we understand that it is estimated to cost \$1 million per mile on the road reroute. We also estimate , based on other river work that has taken place over the years, that it will cost

To: <Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov>
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 02/11/2011 08:51PM
Subject: response to SRCIP and LPP

Please see my comments attached.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

February 11, 2011

National Park Service
Attention: Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Re: Drafts -SRCIP and Land Protection Plan

Dear Superintendent Chip Jenkins,

Thank you very much for approving an extended comment period. I feel our time with the Stehekin Heritage Subcommittee was very well spent and we were able to really think through and identify recommendations that, if adopted, will help preserve the unique community in which we live. I also appreciated the way you handled the January 10 meeting at the Golden West. I came away feeling like our work and comments will be seriously considered by you, and that you are sincere in your concern to do it right.

Through reading the LPP and SRCIP, two things caused me great concern: the land acquisition policies and the apparent attitude that any evidence of human activity and livelihood is offensive to the visitor. The residents here and their way of life is a DRAW to this community, not a hinderance. When people come visit, they are fascinated by the small businesses and families local to the area. The community must be sustained and encouraged to grow. Continued acquisition of private property has to stop or the community will be extinguished.

I understand the "willing seller" concept, however, I believe this is a myth. People may not be a willing seller at first, but can become one easily if the lack of management of the river causes their once desirable property to be flooded, or if they are now included on a map of lands that may flood, or if they cannot resist selling at an elevated price for which no private buyer will pay, or if the opportunities for a making a living in the valley are snuffed out until they are forced to sell. Maybe there are a few who philosophically feel their land should be sold to the NPS, but the time for this is past. We are at a critical point and cannot lose any more private property. At a time with our country in financial crisis, the government has no business spending taxpayer money to acquire more land. According to the GAO report noted in the Stehekin Heritage papers, the NPS has already acquired too much and should sell it back.

I support the following 11 points:

Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement -(revised 2/7/11)

Draft LPP and SRCIP

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the

Stehekin Community.

2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the "acquisition" priorities to "exchange" priorities. See section 5.2
6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.
8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.
9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.
10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.
11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Thank you again for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: Stehekin Heritage
Representative Jay Inslee
Representative Doc Hastings
Senator Linda Evans Parlette
Chelan County Commissioner Doug England
Chelan County Commissioner Keith Goehner
Chelan County Commissioner Ron Walter
Todd Young, Chief of Staff for the Natural Resource Committee in the House
Representative Mike Armstrong
Representative Cary Condotta
Mike Kaputa, Director, Chelan County Natural Resource Department

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 2/11/2011 5:57:36 PM
To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov
Subject: Land Protection (LPP) and Stehekin River Corridor Implementation (SRCIP)

National Park Service Email: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov
Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins Phone: (360) 854-7200
810 Washington 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
February 11th, 2011

Dear Chip,

The following are points of concern that are posted on the Stehekin Heritage Website in regards to the Land Protection (LPP) and Stehekin River Corridor Implementation (SRCIP). I am in complete agreement and alignment with Stehekin Heritages requests and wish to express my utmost support of the requests as the deadline for public response approaches today. It has been discouraging over the years to have witnessed these land protection plans imposed upon the Stehekin & surrounding communities. I firmly suspect that the Department of the Interior is indeed trying to make private property and enterprise extinct as time goes on. These plans only get one step closer to that agenda each time a new one is drafted. The amount of time the public is given to understand, digest and respond to these plans has been immensely unfair in the past, I do appreciate that you have been willing to extend this time and hear the cries of the private sector and pray that you will consider their comments with deepest concern for the healthy continuance of a very unique and sacred community. I support the following:

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities. See section 5.2
6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

Thank you for your attention and regard for these concerns.

Most Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 02:35 PM

Please respond to

[REDACTED]
To "Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov" <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>

cc

Subject

Please don't move the road.i support stehekin heritage.thank you

-- Sent from my Palm Pre

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/11/2011 10:24PM

Subject: My feedback on the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

Hi Chip,

I hope this email finds you well.

Please find attached a letter with my feedback on the SCRIP and the LPP. As I outline in my letter, I am deeply concerned by some of the implications of these plans - specifically the gradual acquisition of private property in Stehekin by the NPS and what the consequences of that would be on the Stehekin community.

On a related matter, I have to confess that I am deeply frustrated by what appears to be a vanishingly little progress in our efforts to carry out a land exchange with the NPS with our property along the river. I feel like we entered into this process in good faith and with assurances from the NPS that this was something that they were also serious about doing, but when I look at how little we have progressed and as I read the fine print of the draft implementation plan, I have to wonder. Are we just spinning our wheels on this? I hope not.

We will be in Stehekin this July so if you happen to be in the area during that time, I hope we will get a chance to catch up and perhaps discuss a few of these issues

with best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]

tel: [REDACTED]

fax [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins

810 Washington 20

Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

RE: Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Draft Land Protection Plan 2010 (LPP)

11 February 2011

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

I am writing with deep concern over many of the proposals outlined in the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Draft Land Protection Plan 2010 (LPP). I have read these documents carefully and want to express my profound opposition to some of the stated goals and objectives described in these documents. I ask that those sections which threaten the future of the thriving private community in the Stehekin Valley be reconsidered. The community of Stehekin existed long before the North Cascades National Park existed, they are an important part of our cultural heritage, and indeed, are one of the main attractions to visitors of the valley.

I should explain my relationship to Stehekin. Though I live in Santa Barbara, California, I am a frequent visitor to Stehekin and have deep roots there. My grandfather was [REDACTED] who moved into the valley as a teenager nearly a century ago and was one of the early settlers. He established the [REDACTED] Orchard – now a heritage site, and is one of the important visitor attractions in the Stehekin Valley. [REDACTED] resided in Stehekin his entire adult life where he raised a family, grew apples and was involved in the community in a wide variety of ways. My mother ([REDACTED]) and her sisters were all raised in Stehekin and were some of the early pupils in the one-room Stehekin schoolhouse. My grandfather sold most of the [REDACTED] orchard to the NPS shortly after the North Cascades National Park was established, but my mother and other [REDACTED] descendants own property in the valley and continue to spend part of the year living in Stehekin. My two siblings and I own a 2.5 acre undeveloped piece of property along the Stehekin River – part of the original [REDACTED] Homestead that was willed to our family by [REDACTED]. I anticipate continuing to frequent Stehekin in the years to come, and hope to start living there for a significant fraction of the year in the near future. So I care deeply about the future of the Stehekin area.

As we all know, Stehekin is a very special place. Besides being the gateway to the spectacular North Cascades, it is also a fairly unique example of an isolated but thriving small rural/mountain community of real people who through the generations have demonstrated an admirable degree of self-sufficiency, resilience, entrepreneurship, hard work, creativity, generosity, and peaceful coexistence with the

spectacular wilderness that surrounds them. In truth, it is the very essence of what a community should and because of this, the private community of Stehekin has become one of the principal reasons that visitors come to Stehekin. Therefore, I think it is imperative that the NPS do everything in its power to protect and support this community.

As I read through the SRCIP and LPP, I was alarmed to see that a major part of the long term planning outlined by the NPS involved the acquisition of a significant fraction of the remaining private property in the Stehekin Valley. Though the language is tempered by phrases such as "provided there are willing sellers", it is clear from the numbers that are outlined in these documents what the long term outcome would be. Specifically, it appears that of the remaining 400+ acres of private land in the valley (which is already drastically reduced from the original 1800 acres of private land a few decades ago), the NPS has deemed all but about 4 acres as either high or moderate priority for acquisition or trade. The justification provided is that virtually all existing private land in the valley is "at risk"- threatened by flooding and/or landslides or other natural hazards, and therefore there is a need to relocate the private property owners to safer areas. Yet only 20 acres of suitable "safe" land is offered up in exchange, and the conditions of such exchanges are far from clear. I can only conclude that the overall objective or goal is to "relocate" many if not most of the private landowners to areas outside the Stehekin Valley. If the NPS is successful in achieving the objectives outlined in these documents, the net amount of private property that would remain in the Stehekin Valley would be down to about 25 acres – hardly enough to sustain a community. The end result would be a place where private citizens could only come visit (but not live), and the only "community" would be the community of park service employees. This sounds to me like the Stehekin Valley would become the exclusive residence of park employees, and the rest of us would be delegated to visitor status – welcome to stop by the visitor center or perhaps stay overnight at expensive lodging under NPS supervision. I can only say that I find this outcome entirely unacceptable and in direct conflict with the NPS mission and role as public servants.

I hope that NPS will reconsider the ill-conceived provisions outlined in the LPP and SCRIP, and will cooperate with the suggestions outlined by the Stehekin Heritage Sub-Committee, which I fully support and which are outlined below:

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities.
6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

With best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 02/11/2011 09:15PM
Subject: Community of Stehekin

Dear Chip,

Having lived all my 25 years in Stehekin, being 5th generation from Stehekin, and having a small piece of property of my own, I want to write a quick note in support of the work that the Stehekin Heritage members have done in response to the SRCIP and LPP documents. First of all I want to thank you and the staff for acknowledging the concerns of the residents, and for the extended review on this subject. Stehekin is very precious to me and my family and a wonderful place to call home. Without copying and pasting their "11 points to support" into my email I want to say that i support the Stehekin Heritage in all of theses statements. One thing i wanted to mention that i thought of at the last meeting in Stehekin where the Heritage presented their response, regarding your concerns as to the availability of funds to maintain any road in Stehekin, knowing that this statement was just a concern to the future, my thought was this: I believe that even if the NPS was not funded to do maintenace on the Stehekin road if it were made available the residents would be willing to work together to maintain a road themselves with shovels and wheel barrows it necssary. I am not volunteering other people only giving example of the community i see. I believe that careful consideration should be paid to wording put in a final document so as to ensure a secure future of the Stehekin Community with no net loss of the remaining private property and buisness, it not a gain. I know that is a subject that would need much attention, but I believe that it is a goal that should be looked into and implemented. Thanks again for Hearing our concerns,

[REDACTED]

\$250,000 for NPS to do the work at Wilson Creek.

If the road reroute were started below Wilson Creek, adding .35 of a mile, this would also cost approximately \$250,000 . The beginning near Wilson Creek would be difficult but the stretch adjacent to us would be easy, so they would balance out.

Would NPS still have to put barbs in at Wilson Creek if the reroute were started downvalley of that location? In other words that could be a wash financially.

We also had an independent estimate of building new road on NPS property adjacent to our property, extending the proposed reroute .2 of a mile starting at Bear Trap Spring and the estimate was \$100,000 or less based on the easy terrain.

Also by extending the reroute the visitors on the buses would be away from our buildings and machinery , thereby having a seamless aesthetic experience from approximately Rainbow Falls until the Stehekin Valley Ranch..

These are just some of the questions we have. We look forward to resolving these issues in a manner that will benefit us, NPS and the public.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/11/2011 05:03 PM

To <Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov>

cc

Subject Support for Stehekin Heritage summary atatement (revised 2/7/11) Draft LPP & SRCIP

Superintendent Jenkins,

My introduction to Stehekin was by way of a construction project with the NPS to remodel the Golden West Lodge in 2002. I made a decision to bring my eighth grade son with me to live for the year and attend the well respected Stehekin School. I quickly learned to love and appreciate the "People, or community of Stehekin". Such a unique culture it is, with community values far above any I have ever witnessed in any location. Because of my experience that year, I have continued to enjoy and hopefully contribute to the Stehekin community these last nine years. Although the natural resources of the area are often what is afforded protection, please do not overlook the protection needed for the community to survive. I truly believe Stehekin would lose its uniqueness without the people and business that make it a community. I have read the GAO report in its entirety and was appalled by methods and tactics used by NPS staff in past history of park management. Let us hope for a better approach and outcome than achieved by your predecessors. I fully endorse and support the Stehekin Heritage summary statement (revised 2/7/11) Draft LPP & SRCIP.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley .

3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.

.

4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.

5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities . See section 5.2

6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP .

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location .

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in it original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

Sincerely, and emphatically urging your complete support of the Stehekin Community,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 02/11/2011 08:28PM
Subject: SRCIP LPP Response

Chip, just finished my response. Thank you for the additional time to respond to the draft plans.

[REDACTED] and I look forward to visiting with you on Monday at 4:00.

Good evening, [REDACTED]

Superintendent Chip Jenkins February 10, 2011
North Cascades National Park
810 Sedro-Woolley Wa. 98284

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,
Vocabulary

Reviewing the draft Land Protection (LPP) and Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plans (SRCIP) I was struck by the importance of vocabulary. Ideas, including management conceptions, require a unique vocabulary if they are to be communicated. Absent language and conception, essential ideas cannot be considered or broadcast. The LPP and SRCIP lack the language to make "Community" a meaningful conception, a desired vision, a management objective.

From my perspective, the draft plans appear to possess a rich vocabulary when addressing the natural world but suffer from a limited vocabulary concerning issues of community development.

SRCIP - "SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES" - Pages 473-482.

This Appendix addresses multiple measures to minimize or mitigate impacts on: Land Use, Air Quality, Soils, Vegetation, Noxious Weeds, Water Resources, Prevention of Fuel Spills, Wildlife, Special Status Species, Archeological Resources, Cultural Landscapes, Visitor Experience, Wild and Scenic River Values, Park Operations, Socioeconomics and Hazardous Waste. The desire to mitigate impacts on the list above is understandable, however, at no time reading the draft plans did I find any sense that planners considered the effects of these plans on the community of Stehekin in an equally conscious manner.

Appendix 6 of the SRCIP provides nine pages and 150+ bulleted measures recommending mitigations dedicated to minimizing impacts on the list above. Few of the bulleted measures speak to the impacts of the plans on values, culture, heritage, and the future of the community.

The SRCIP has a language of its own. Reviewing the draft LPP revealed another language that will have a VAST impact on the future of the Stehekin Community. In this plan, the NPS has developed a precise vocabulary to describe different manners of land acquisition and resource protection but possesses an egregiously limited vocabulary when considering the value of the community and of protecting the remaining acres of private property and a community in Stehekin.

It is not evident that the National Park Service has developed the capacity or the language to address socioeconomic/socio cultural issues with the same capacity they address land acquisition and protection. Vocabulary is essential. Only by acknowledging the import of the Stehekin Community and private property will the NPS develop the language - the vocabulary - to address impacts of planning efforts on the community and private property. It is essential that, at a minimum, the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

From my perspective, this is the fulcrum upon our future balances. You may feel the LPP and SRCIP already possess language referencing the value of the community. I would encourage planners to take another look at the plans and ask, "Have we clearly articulated the value of private property and the community? Have we carefully analyzed and evaluated the impacts of land acquisition on the community?"

I am aware this planning effort was predicated on the desire to assist property owners exchange land endangered by the river for other property in the valley. At first it seemed a win-win proposal. Unfortunately, for too many reasons, the details of these draft plans appear to belie that original intention. The choice to dramatically change the high, medium and low priorities for potential acquisition was unsettling especially when reviewing the nine criteria used to develop the lists. Only defining 24 acres of land as available for exchange while placing all but four acres of private property on high or medium potential for acquisition lists was additionally unnerving. The inability to offer a cogent evaluation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the Stehekin Community is unacceptable. Planners feel this draft LPP was, for the most part, brought forward from the 1995 LPP. I believe there are significant differences between the two, however, even if I did agree that this LPP rendition was a clone of the 95 plan, it makes it no less undesirable. Neither the 95 or 2011 LPPs, developed the language to assess the impacts of continued land acquisition on the community. These draft plans provide ample evidence of the chasm between the ability to articulate the importance of community resources vs. the importance of environmental resources. The NPS must develop a community resource vocabulary and embed that language in both the Land Protection and River Corridor plans. To develop a community oriented vocabulary, the NPS must first, reach the realization that continued land acquisition can lead to nothing other than the demise of the community. NPS planners for the past four decades have either refused to study the impacts of land acquisition on Stehekin's Community or have never conceived that such an issue was important. This must change. Rarely are issues so starkly evident. Now is the time to examine the effects of NPS land acquisition in the Stehekin Valley. It is my hope you will support conducting a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community. Additionally, until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, I request that the National Park Service enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley. I would suggest that the NPS continue to honor current land trade activity, as long as, there was no net loss of private property land base value.

Facilities

You will receive ample input concerning the value of community life and private property. The issue concerning "facilities" that is included in all alternatives will probably receive less attention yet it is one of significant import.

If the plan is to eventually build an employee compound near the airstrip to house NPS employees, families and firefighters, in proximity to a maintenance yard, solid waste disposal and fuel storage area, then it represents a serious affront to the culture of the community and damages NPS credibility. Realizing there will be more focused planning opportunities to respond to the facilities element of the planning process, I will not belabor specific points in this letter, however, the facilities element of this planning effort represents another misguided conception brought forward from the 95 GMP.

One of the positive elements of community life in the valley is that people living on private property and those living in NPS housing are integrated throughout the valley. The pattern of integration represents a unique element of community culture that must be addressed in these and future planning efforts.

Because I find the facilities compound concept to be destructive of community culture, I support removing the facilities section from all SRCIP alternatives until a clearly articulated set of alternatives that address cultural impacts on the community are developed.

The Road

My point of view concerning the road alternative has changed dramatically in the past six months. Previous to reviewing the plans, I did not consider the negative impacts of moving the road. I didn't necessarily care where the road went as long as private property owners in the area were supportive and it was paved. In retrospect, my lack of depth of examination of the issue is embarrassing to admit. I did think paving of the road would enhance visitor services enabling more people to travel upvalley during their stay, but this rationale now seems pale considering the issues at stake with the proposed road change. All in all, I am of the opinion that the NPS should maintain the road at its present site. I believe the reasons for this were clearly presented in Mark Courtney's statement at the January 10th public meeting in Stehekin. You have a record of this statement. While I support the road being maintained in its present placement, I hope the NPS will investigate and initiate dust control measures that are compatible with high environmental standards.

Shooting Range

This area was set aside in large part because of the influence of hunters across the state and nation. It is imperative that a recreation area that permits hunting has a shooting range available to NPS law enforcement officers, the Sheriff's Department, valley residents and visitors.

Other Issues

I support the Stehekin Heritage recommendations that are attached to this letter.

All in all, I believe that enacting legislation was written with the intention that the community of Stehekin exist and be available to provide visitor services. Continued NPS land acquisition can do nothing but lead to the elimination of this historic community. If there is a rebuttal to this statement, please present it. Continued community life and continued land acquisition are incompatible concepts at this point in time.

Here at the end of this letter, I will return to the beginning of the letter.

Ideas, including management conceptions, require a unique vocabulary if they are to be communicated. Absent language and conception, essential ideas cannot be considered or broadcast. The LPP and SRCIP currently lack the range of language to make "Community" a meaningful conception, a desired vision, a management objective.

I hope you and your staff will take the lead and develop the vision and language that encourage management goals and practices that specifically support an active, viable community living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

Thank you for your consideration of these thoughts.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I support the following recommendations:

Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement -(revised 2/7/11)
Draft LPP and SRCIP

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities. See section 5.2
6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.
8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.
9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.
10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.
11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping

the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access. We thank you for the opportunity to respond to these Draft documents. And we hope that we can work together with you toward a bright future for the cooperative relationship between the NPS and the private community.

http://www.stehekinheritage.com/legislative-history-part-1_300.html

http://www.stehekinheritage.com/legislative-history-part-2_295.html

http://www.stehekinheritage.com/legislative-historypart-3_297.html

http://www.stehekinheritage.com/legislative-history-part-4_298.html

http://www.stehekinheritage.com/gao-report_299.html

GAO was requested to examine the land acquisition and management practices of the National Park Service (NPS) at Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. Through the law which established this area, it was congressional intent that land acquisition costs be minimal, that a private community in the recreation area continue to exist, that commercial development not be eliminated, and that additional compatible development be permitted to accommodate increased visitor use.

NPS has not acted in accordance with congressional intent. NPS has spent millions of dollars to acquire over half of the privately owned land in the recreation area. Moreover, it plans to acquire most of the area's remaining privately owned land. These additional land acquisitions are planned without a clear definition of the uses that are incompatible with the enabling legislation. The acquisitions are based on the premise that NPS must acquire the major areas subject to subdivision to prevent a prospective boom in recreational homesites. NPS has also prohibited new private commercial development to increase lodging accommodations and to provide needed restaurant and grocery services for both residents and visitors.

[Click to view the summary online](#)

[Click to view the full report online](#)

To: chip_jenkins@nps.gov

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/11/2011 08:01PM

Subject: Stehekin

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

As a former resident of Stehekin and a frequent visitor, I am writing about the two draft plans: The Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and the Land Protection Plan (LPP). I am in full support of the Stehekin community and the Stehekin Heritage organization. Please refer to the Stehekin Heritage website for a reasonable and workable proposal and response to these two draft plans. Thank you for considering what is best for the Stehekin community.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To: chip_jenkins@nps.gov

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/11/2011 09:29PM

Subject: Stehekin

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

Stehekin is a special place and deserves the best we can give her. I've lived there in the past and visit several times each year. I support the community there as well as the Stehekin Heritage organization. I fully support the use of a land swap as necessary, not the net purchase of additional land by the federal government. I also support keeping the road where it is currently located and protecting and maintaining it there. Thank you for considering what is best for those who will be most impacted by the draft plans under consideration.

--

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11/10/2010 05:03 AM PST
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: Response Stehekin LPP and River Corridor Plans

Chip, please find attached my initial response to the Land Protection and River Corridor Draft Plans. If you have questions or comments, please let me know. Stehekin Heritage will be providing a more detailed response to both plans in the future but are presently asking for a 60+ day extension to the public comment time and for the NPS to hold additional recorded public hearings concerning the plans.

Thank you for your attention and response.

Palmer "Chip" Jenkins
Superintendent North Cascades NPS Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley
Washington 98284

Superintendent Jenkins,

The following comments concerning the Draft Stehekin River Corridor and Land Protection Plans, are written on behalf of the Stehekin Heritage organization.

Stehekin Heritage officially requests:

- One - That an extension of at least sixty days be granted beyond the established December 13, 2010 deadline currently defined by the National Park Service. This extension will enable those responding to the River Corridor and Land Protection plans the necessary additional time to respond in a responsible manner.
- Two - That public hearings be scheduled before the River Corridor and Land Protection Plans are finalized. As with the "Open Houses" you organized to introduce the plans, meetings in Stehekin, Wenatchee and Seattle would be appropriate. The opportunity to offer recorded public testimony is an essential element of a planning process of this magnitude.

Why do we make this request?

1. Granting an additional sixty days comment period will enable interested parties to digest, discuss and develop cogent responses to the 600+ pages of Draft Planning documentation. It is both reasonable and imperative that the request for comment extension be granted.
2. Fifteen years have passed since Stehekin residents and the general public have been formally involved in the development of a Land Protection Plan for the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. It could be another fifteen years before citizens have the opportunity to respond to planning of this magnitude again. The resolution of issues explored in both of these plans will have profound effect upon the future of the Stehekin Valley and Community. A sixty-day extension and opportunity for recorded public testimony are minimal requests when considering planning efforts of this significance.
3. Land Protection and River Corridor planning focus intently upon the few remaining acres of private property in the valley. It is essential that more time be granted regarding communication between the National Park Service and private property owners. The length and breadth of issues affecting this community are significant. Obviously, an extension of the response time frame and scheduling public hearings will facilitate thoughtful and thorough communication.

Background for the above requests:

Superintendent Jenkins, you and the planning team introduced the draft plans for public review at the October 19th Open House here in Stehekin. This meeting was scheduled for 3:00-5:00 P.M. at the

To: <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/11/2011 11:46PM

Subject: NO NET LOSS

Please take the time to study the impact of reducing the amount of private land in the Stehekin Valley. As a small community they may have an extremely difficult time adjusting to a land loss. Remember there are families raising children and sending those children to public school. If the taxable land goes away the school might as well. I believe that if future generation of this county are to have a chance to see Stehekin it must remain a community, not just another piece of property owned by NPS. It is in all our best interests to maintain this rugged, value oriented, independent minded community.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Golden West Lodge. We are appreciative of Jon Riedel's presentation of the River Corridor planning and alternatives at this meeting.

While the River Corridor presentation was thorough, the Land Protection planning side of the October 19th Open House presentation did not rise to that level of coherent review. It is possible that the level of interest and/or anxiety communicated by property owners and residents as they asked questions and offered comments concerning the Land Protection side of the planning effort surprised you and the planning team.

Responding to the high level of concern expressed by those remaining in attendance after 5:00 P.M. to discuss the draft LPP, you informed us that much of the LPP language was brought directly forward from the 1995 Land Protection Plan. While it is possible you and the planning team believed, because substantial elements of the LPP were taken directly from the 1995 Land Protection Plan, that valley residents and the general public would be familiar with and/or supportive of the draft LPP. By the conclusion of the Open House, it was apparent this is not the case. The fact that the planning team developed no formal presentation of the draft LPP at the Open House may be attributed to this misconception.

Granting an extension of time to address these essential planning efforts and their effect on the Stehekin Community is essential. Stehekin Heritage respectfully requests a minimum of sixty days beyond the December deadline to evaluate these plans. We would use this time to gather and assess information and respond to both plans. Additionally, we request that public meetings be scheduled before the River Corridor and Land Protection Plans are finalized. These meetings would allow citizens the opportunity to provide recorded public testimony on these plans.

Superintendent Jenkins, during the October 19th Open House, I asked you to extend the December 11th deadline for public comments and to hold public hearings before the plans were finalized. You were noncommittal at that time as to whether you would grant an extension and/or hold other public meetings. Please consider this letter a formal request by Stehekin Heritage to extend the comment time and to hold meetings where public testimony is recorded.

Thank you for considering these requests and responding in a timely manner.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
11/15/2010 01:02 PM

To Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov, noca_superintendent@nps.gov

cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Extend time on Draft Plans

Palmer "Chip" Jenkins
Superintendent North Cascades NPS Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284

As a property owner in the Stehekin Valley, I request an extension of 60 days or more to properly consider the Draft River Corridor and Land Protection plans. Looking at the potential consequences being considered, and the effect on the Stehekin Community, I need much more time to digest, discuss, and plan a proper response.

Additionally, I request that there be recorded public hearings before the comment period closes.

Also, I fully agree with the letter you received from Ron Scutt, President of Stehekin Heritage, below.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Superintendent Jenkins,

The following comments concerning the Draft Stehekin River Corridor and Land Protection Plans, are written on behalf of the Stehekin Heritage organization.

Stehekin Heritage officially requests:

- One - That an extension of at least sixty days be granted beyond the established December 13, 2010 deadline currently defined by the National Park Service. This extension will enable those responding to the River Corridor and Land Protection plans the necessary additional time to respond in a responsible manner.
- Two - That public hearings be scheduled before the River Corridor and Land Protection Plans are finalized. As with the "Open Houses" you organized to introduce the plans, meetings in Stehekin, Wenatchee and Seattle would be appropriate. The opportunity to offer recorded public testimony is an essential element of a planning process of this magnitude.

Why do we make this request?

1. Granting an additional sixty days comment period will enable interested parties to digest, discuss and develop cogent responses to the 600+ pages of Draft Planning documentation. It is both reasonable and imperative that the request for comment extension be granted.
2. Fifteen years have passed since Stehekin residents and the general public have been formally involved in the development of a Land Protection Plan for the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. It could be another fifteen years before citizens have the opportunity to respond to planning of this magnitude again. The resolution of issues explored in both of these plans will have profound effect upon the future of the Stehekin Valley and Community. A sixty-day extension and opportunity for recorded public testimony are



09/19/2010 05:24 PM

To <noca_superintendent@nps.gov>

bcc

Subject COMMENTS ON DRAFT LAND PROTECTION PLAN 2010

ETERNAL MAKE-WORK MANAGEMENT

Micro-management survives, nay, prosper only among bureaucrats. Competition for survival eliminates it from private sectors through strangulation of its practitioners.

The miniscule settlement of Stehekin, Washington is a poster child for bureaucratic insanity and abuse of power.

North Cascade National Park is part of a 10,000 square mile recovery zone. In 1988 a heretofore generally applied wilderness area management practice was made law. In that year, Congress designated 93 percent of the entire North Cascades Complex as the **Stephen Mather Wilderness**. Only the Highway 20 corridor and Lakes Ross and Chelan have narrow strips of shorelines not designated as wilderness.

In the Lake Chelan Recreation Area, a pimple on the elephant's butt, most all NPS attention and governance centers on 417.47 acres of 167 tracts owned privately. (There are 640 acres per square mile.) Its mismanagement is historic.

"This Land Protection Plan focuses more specifically on protecting the purposes of the public lands primarily by identifying private tracts most at risk from flooding and bank erosion and identifying federal lands possibly suitable for exchange outside the Stehekin River CMZ." It's time for some perspective.

The Lake Chelan canyon was carved out of rock during the glacial periods to a depth of 1,486 feet and 55-miles-long. It partially filled over thousands of years through cycles of ice age and global warming. Floods we cannot imagine the floods that occurred. High water is a yearly occurrence to some degree.

I was sickened seeing dreams, cabins and facilities washed into the Stehekin River because of your senseless policy to let the river run wild, spread out across the valley and then leave resulting debris because it's part of nature now.

Tell me, why in hell are we restoring New Orleans which only differs in scale. Tell me, why do we restore towns and facilities flattened by tornados? Are they not all "part of nature now". You need consistency in practice. What is more important, humans or resources?

I want to expose you to information you apparently have never met. It shows a remarkable difference between you and the Corps of Engineers in defending nature plus prevention and reaction to natural disasters. This is my response to a Wall Street Journal article by Mr. Pope.

Mr. Carl Pope

Sierra Club

Dear Sir:

You recently stated "We had to learn how to encourage good stuff, and that's been a learning experience I think for everyone in the club." You caught my attention which prompted this contact hoping to share my experience in preserving our planet including personal examples of how nature and progress can mesh.

"For many years they (Army Engineers) have guarded the Great Yellowstone Park and now they are guarding Yosemite. They have found it a desert, as far as underbrush, grass and flowers are concerned, but in two years, the skin of the mountains is healthy again. Blessings on Uncle Sam's soldiers, as they have done the job well, and every pine tree is waving its arms in joy." John Muir, Naturalist.

FROM HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

"Nevertheless, Yellowstone Park does owe a heavy debt to specific individuals and groups, and in the history of its discovery, preservation, and improvement no organization was more outstanding than the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Names of Engineers who made major contributions have been memorialized in natural and manmade attractions of the park: Raynolds Pass, Barlow Peak, Jones Creek and Pass, Kingman Pass, and Chittenden Road and Bridge. Other officers, who played smaller roles, left no names on the land; yet they, too, shared in the record of accomplishment and in the spirit of dedication that marked the Corps' involvement in Yellowstone. Among the figures in the annals of the park were these military engineers: Lieutenant Gunnison, who preserved Bridger's early and graphic description for posterity; Maj. George L. Gillespie, a future Chief of Engineers, who in 1875 helped to popularize the region; Col. Orlando M. Poe (aide-de-camp to General William T. Sherman), who in 1877 made a significant contribution to park literature; Capt. William S. Stanton, chief engineer of the Department of the Platte, who in 1881 provided an accurate table of distances; and Lt. Col. James F. Gregory (aide-de-camp to Lt. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan), whose reports of 1881 and 1882 helped to focus attention on weaknesses in the Interior Department's stewardship. [8] Moreover, the park's well-known road and bridge builders, Capt. Dan C. Kingman and Capt. Hiram M. Chittenden, were but the first and foremost of ten Engineers whose improvements transformed a nearly trackless wilderness into a true pleasuring ground. [9]

This volume attempts to make known the more remarkable achievements of the Corps of Engineers in Yellowstone National Park by presenting excerpts from the journals and reports of six outstanding Engineer officers: Capt. William F. Raynolds, Capt. John W. Barlow, Capt. William A. Jones, Capt. William Ludlow, Capt. Dan C. Kingman, and Capt. Hiram M. Chittenden. Their individual exploits as explorers, conservationists, and engineers clearly emerge from their separate writings. Although differences in their achievements and personalities were striking, Yellowstone engaged the imagination of each man, in addition to eliciting his technical skill. Their writings are a rare combination of the practical and the visionary, the empirical and the poetic. Passages such as Captain Raynolds' description of a bucolic camp scene are common:

While returning to the [wagon] train my first view of the camp struck me as one of the most singular beauty. The dark and varied outlines of the mountains formed the background to a landscape of wide extent and attractive features. In the centre, the circle of white tents and wagon covers reflected the bright rays of the sun, and the smoke of camp fires, the groups of men, and the grazing animals, added the charm of busy life to the scene; while, upon either hand, the striking contrasts were mellowed down by gently-sloping hills clad with verdure of all the picturesque tints of autumn. [10]

Raynolds was not alone in painting verbal portraits that evoked the atmosphere captured by such artists of the West as Thomas Moran and Albert Bierstadt. Indeed much of the descriptive

terminology of the Engineers — "picturesque," "grandeur," "majestic," "sublime" — showed their precise knowledge of romantic esthetics. A romantic bias toward idealizing reality was evidenced also by their tendency to anthropomorphize natural phenomena. Captain Ludlow's description of Giantess Geyser, in which he began by citing exact measurements and gradually built to a dramatic climax of Shelleyan prose, is a perfect example:

Again and again the geyser renewed its strength, sending out vast volumes of steam with a deafening roar that shook the whole valley, and occasionally snatching hold of a new reservoir of water and instantly ejecting it; each fresh access of wrath or travail being heralded by deep mighty thuds, as though some vast machinery were at work beneath. The exhibition of enormous power wasted in these prolonged spasms of blind rage was both fascinating and terrible, and the imagination, powerfully stimulated in the presence of such strength and fury, could not avoid imputing to the scene the attributes of gigantic passion and suffering. It seemed as though the geyser, maddened by some inexpressible and mysterious torment, were imprisoned beneath and gradually exhausting herself in unavailing struggles to escape it by bursting the bonds that held her, the paroxysms of efforts being alternated with intervals of stupor, again and again overcome by her still unabated rage. [11]

In the improvement work which followed the explorations, the Engineers never lost this respect for the power and beauty of nature. The roads they built were smooth and safe and some of their bridges were feats of engineering, yet all were designed to preserve the land as "nearly . . . as nature left it." [12] Many of their works were classic models of organic architecture carried out with both the tourist and the landscape in mind. By improving Yellowstone without impairing it, the Corps proved itself an ideal guardian of the natural wonderland willed to the nation.

When the National Park Service assumed control of Yellowstone in 1918, the Corps' endeavors there ended. But, even today, the Engineers continue to foster the national park idea by providing hundreds of recreation areas at their manmade lakes. And their Yellowstone legacy is still viable. In 1860, when Captain Reynolds reached the bluff overlooking the Yellowstone River, he gazed into a wide valley and poignantly forecast that "the sight was one which, in a few years, will have passed away forever." [13] It is a happy irony that his own Corps proved him wrong by helping to save the pristine wilderness which so struck Reynolds. His work and that of his brother Engineers did much to spread knowledge of the park, open it to the general public, protect its wildlife and natural wonders, and enable modern tourists to share the awe experienced by pioneers of an earlier age."

Dear Mr. Pope:

I hope by now we are closer together regarding the Corps' devotion to protecting nature. I believe the Corps was a member of John Muir's original club.

Back to the umpteenth "Plan" for Stehekin. When I opened the \$7.50 postage package of exotic, top-grade presentation pamphlets plus a CD I nearly gagged. I can imagine the massive effort expended on its production.

"Changed conditions due to record floods" justified it.

Unless every lineal foot of river shoreline is permanently guarded against erosion it will never cease. Meandering and destruction of human endeavor will continue. However, that ensures

NPS response to changing conditions and maintaining its jobs.

I know from 31-years in government that 80% of all meaningful work is done by 20% of its people. Time to slim down.

Free enterprise in the valley would bring more and better jobs than working for government.

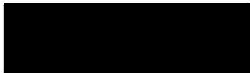
The destroyed nine-hole golf course could be finished. An archery facility for training and practice. A spa. Tennis and a basketball court. A controlled river would protect new development. Vehicle access to the lake from the airstrip should be completed.

The millions of words, dollars and wasted hours sawing sawdust on minute and endless "issues" plus enforcement of anti-people rules have driven people from the valley and killed dreams of building or replacing lost cabins. That you require gravel and stone for construction be imported from Chelan rather than use the billions of cubic yards in the valley is psychotic.

My solution for the Recreation Area is this: Demand common sense prevail in all rules, regulations and actions. Place responsibility with the Corps of Engineers to design and construct all infrastructure for the entire Recreation Area including the Stehekin River cure.

Like an unruly child the Stehekin River must be restrained—not allowed to flood the valley floor needlessly. Shoreline protection will complement nature. Roads must be in safest locale.

Homes and facilities must be safeguarded. People shall be placed first in all solutions. Let the Corps hire NPS displaced folks that have suitable skills for its work.



NPS PLAN TO ERASE PRIVATE RESIDENTS FROM NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY--AUGUST 2010

"Recent major floods and resultant channel changes on the lower Stehekin River have intensified flood and erosion threats to NPS facilities and are impacting natural resources within Lake Chelan NRA." It goes on to say these new threats from unprecedented conditions needs a new plan to meet NPS goals, which are:

1. Sustainably operate and maintain NPS administrative facilities, public access (roads and trails), and campgrounds.
2. Protect water quality, scenic values, habitat, and natural processes of the Stehekin River; and
3. Continue visitor services provided by the Stehekin Community, including those services and facilities found on private lands.

So the number one goal protects bureaucrats and their assets.

Your number two goal includes to "protect the natural process of the Stehekin River". That means eliminate any serious effort to halt all bank erosion that undercuts trees that topple into the river and form log jams that backs up water that seeks new routes to bypass blockage leading to cutting out meandering channels and depositing piles of debris in the old channel.

Brilliant! So the scenic values of cabins, trash, mini-mountains of trees/limbs/brush choking the river thrills visitors.

I have always suspected that a hidden element within the NPS D.C. hierarchy wants to eliminate all trace of human activity in the Stehekin valley and include it in wilderness. Your goal to defend Mom Nature's eternal river meandering to eventually destroy private properties and drive owners out of the valley tend to reinforce that suspicion.

Had the United States adopted your goal to "protect the natural processes of the Stehekin River" as national policy America's development would have been stunted to that of a second class country.

Whether creek, stream or river, all flowing water meanders when entering flat plain. The Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Colorado, Columbia and hundreds of other drainages would have left millions of square miles of land useless for development.

The fact people of vision decided not only to control them but also utilize them to include permanent dependable shorelines, flood control, dams for hydropower, water storage, locks for economical transportation, recreation and other benefits. They proved an incomparable resource for American enterprise.

The identical philosophy should be applied to the Stehekin River, the only difference is in scale of effort/benefits.

Your 1995 Land Protection Plan includes these "issues". Stop and think about each. How miniscule can you get in problems? Bureaucracies do not spend the majority of effort slimming down. They grow by extending oversight to subdividing problems into smaller and smaller components.

Protection of water quality

Water rights and protection of resources

Man-caused channel modification of the Stehekin River

Air pollution! acid precipitation impacts on resources

Protection of wetlands

Impacts of sand, rock, and gravel extraction on vegetation, wildlife, and scenic quality

Barging of sand, rock, and gravel from outside the recreation area

Amounts of sand, rock, and gravel available for private use

Forest fire management

Unnatural and dangerous levels of forest fuel accumulations

Cutting of green trees for firewood

minimal requests when considering planning efforts of this significance.

3. Land Protection and River Corridor planning focus intently upon the few remaining acres of private property in the valley. It is essential that more time be granted regarding communication between the National Park Service and private property owners. The length and breadth of issues affecting this community are significant. Obviously, an extension of the response time frame and scheduling public hearings will facilitate thoughtful and thorough communication.

Background for the above requests:

Superintendent Jenkins, you and the planning team introduced the draft plans for public review at the October 19th Open House here in Stehekin. This meeting was scheduled for 3:00-5:00 P.M. at the Golden West Lodge. We are appreciative of Jon Riedel's presentation of the River Corridor planning and alternatives at this meeting.

While the River Corridor presentation was thorough, the Land Protection planning side of the October 19th Open House presentation did not rise to that level of coherent review. It is possible that the level of interest and/or anxiety communicated by property owners and residents as they asked questions and offered comments concerning the Land Protection side of the planning effort surprised you and the planning team.

Responding to the high level of concern expressed by those remaining in attendance after 5:00 P.M. to discuss the draft LPP, you informed us that much of the LPP language was brought directly forward from the 1995 Land Protection Plan. While it is possible you and the planning team believed, because substantial elements of the LPP were taken directly from the 1995 Land Protection Plan, that valley residents and the general public would be familiar with and/or supportive of the draft LPP. By the conclusion of the Open House, it was apparent this is not the case. The fact that the planning team developed no formal presentation of the draft LPP at the Open House may be attributed to this misconception.

Granting an extension of time to address these essential planning efforts and their effect on the Stehekin Community is essential. Stehekin Heritage respectfully requests a minimum of sixty days beyond the December deadline to evaluate these plans. We would use this time to gather and assess information and respond to both plans. Additionally, we request that public meetings be scheduled before the River Corridor and Land Protection Plans are finalized. These meetings would allow citizens the opportunity to provide recorded public testimony on these plans.

Superintendent Jenkins, during the October 19th Open House, I asked you to extend the December 11th deadline for public comments and to hold public hearings before the plans were finalized. You were noncommittal at that time as to whether you would grant an extension and/or hold other public meetings. Please consider this letter a formal request by Stehekin Heritage to extend the comment time and to hold meetings where public testimony is recorded.

Thank you for considering these requests and responding in a timely manner.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Gathering of dead and downed wood for firewood
 Amounts and sources of firewood
 Barging of firewood from outside the recreation area
 Impacts of additional electrical generation facilities on air quality and valley growth and development
 Protection of threatened, endangered, or rare species
 Impacts of nonnative species
 Impacts of grazing by horses on natural vegetation in wilderness
 Impacts of campfires on meadow vegetation in wilderness
 Impacts of removing dead wood used for campfires in wilderness
 Cultural resource protection
 Airstrip provision of access to the Stehekin Valley
 Airstrip use for search and rescue and fire control staging
 Airstrip use for emergencies
 Airstrip provision of a special recreational experience
 Safety of the airstrip
 Impacts of the airstrip on scenic quality
 Impacts of the airstrip on wetlands
 Impacts of airplane use on natural sights and sounds expected by visitors
 Impacts of access provided by the roads
 Impacts of road repair and maintenance on natural resources and the regional economy
 Impacts of road closures
 Impacts of accidental spills or leakage of toxic substances
 Development by the National Park Service
 Impacts of valley growth and development
 Changes in the size and character of the Stehekin community
 Impacts of development on sensitive and scenic natural areas
 Adequacy and impacts of land protection plan
 Adequacy and impacts of compatibility standards
 Number and kinds of services provided by the National Park Service
 Number and kinds of services provided by the private sector

If you can read this crap and keep a straight face you have gone beyond help. You beat Obama to the punch for government control over everything. Take a look at an uncontrolled river in Alaska.



When the NRA was established I recall the horrendous methods used to obtain private property. The GAO was so incensed it ordered all taking actions reversed, land returned to original owners and start over within the law and civility. The following piece is a tiny portion of that mess.

Case Studies from the '70s

♦ Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, WA---Was made a NRA so that the small community of Stehekin could continue its pioneering subsistence way of life, it offered a unique opportunity to provide the handicapped, elderly, and children a truly wild experience at the end of a 40 mile boat ride, the only regular method to get into Stehekin. There were only 1,600 acres of private land. According to the GAO, the Park Service purchased most of these, cutting off the ability of the community to provide for many visitors

SOME SPECIFIC CASE STUDIES FROM THE 70'S.

Lake Chelan National Recreation Area in Washington State-----was created at the same time as the North Cascades National Park. Lake Chelan was made a NRA so that the small community of Stehekin could continue its pioneering subsistence way of life. It was necessary for the community to have access to wood, water and power to continue.

Lake Chelan offered a unique opportunity to provide the handicapped, elderly, and children a truly wild experience at the end of a 40 mile boat ride, the only regular method to get into Stehekin. There were only 1,600 acres of private land. According to the GAO, the Park Service purchased most of these, cutting off the ability of the community to provide for many visitors.

In fact, it has been said that by 1980 there were half as many beds available to disadvantaged recreationists as there had been in 1968 when the area was made a National Recreation Area. The Park Service had purchased some of the facilities and closed them down.

Any wonder left why NPS relations with the private sector have been controversial?

Stehekin was inhabited and developed way before the NPS showed up. Government of the people, for the people and by the people still is America's standard. You should put people first and resources a distant second.

Bird droppings bring vegetation foreign to the area. Why fight to return nature to its original state when you really don't know what in hell that was?

I hope I have made myself and many dear friends and neighbors in Stehekin clear. You have acted as a dictatorship and ignored many opinions of the inhabitants. Please consider a reversal of goals and priorities.



4

[REDACTED]
10/02/2010 08:28 AM To
<noca_superintendent@nps.gov>
cc

bcc

Subject
Hazard Creek

Hi Jon,

I read with interest the SRCIP documents that were distributed to private landowners recently. I am curious about the different land protection priorities that were established for the 4 Hazard Creek lots. As the owner of lot 3, I am unable to understand how the scoring system elevates my lot to a higher priority than the adjacent uplake and downlake lots.

Is it possible for me to access and review the actual scoring data used in this determination? I look forward to your reply.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]



10/11/2010 05:18 PM

To <noca_superintendent@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Stehekin Plan

Superintendent Jenkins,

Access, access, access. One of my most memorable backpack/climbing trips was from Park Creek to Mt Logan in 2003. I've never been back because of lack of access. Please do whatever it takes to get the road back up that valley so We The Public can have access to OUR Park. Thank you for considering my comments.



7



11/05/2010 04:37 PM

To noca_superintendent@nps.gov

cc

bcc

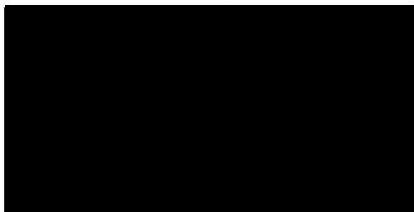
Subject Stehekin River Plan

In January of this year I sent an email to Senator Patty Murray about the Stehekin Valley Road. About locating the road on higher ground to reduce the chance of damage during floods. I strongly support the rebuilding of the Stehekin Valley Road as it provides access to some very remote areas.

One of the issues is that moving the road would affect the Pacific Crest Trail. I suggested that the PCT be moved east at the road crossing and loop around to the north on an existing trail that would need improvements to meet the PCT standards. The current placement of the PCT follows along the north side of the Stehekin Valley Road for some distance and is not a real positive experience for PCT users.

Let me know if you would like more details about my suggested alternate route for the PCT.

I have hiked into Stehekin on three different trips on the PCT and have travelled up the lake to stay in Stehekin in the winter to snowshoe and enjoy the area. The area is beautiful and needs to be preserved for multiple uses for future visitors.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11/07/2010 01:43 AM MST
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: road reroute and wilson creek

Hi Chip,

Please find attached some more words from us regarding the proposed Wilson Creek work and road reroute extension.

We are also mailing via USPS today a signed copy.

We will be traveling around for the next month in Washington and a little bit in Oregon and probably will check email once a week.

Thank you.



Nov. 6 wilson creek and road reroute.doc



Sent by: Site Administrator
<nPCA@npca.org>

11/15/2010 03:56 PM

To noca_superintendent@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Draft EIS Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

Nov 15, 2010

Superintendent Chip Jenkins
North Cascades National Park Complex, 810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-1239

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

I support the restoration of Pacific Northwest rivers, including the Stehekin River in North Cascades National Park. For decades, the National Park Service (NPS) has managed the Stehekin River in order to protect the public and private property from floods. Unfortunately, Stehekin floods have become more frequent and powerful, causing millions in property damage. Alternative 2 of the Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan restores the river by allowing it to utilize the flood plain and will remove NPS buildings and private structures from the channel migration zone. I support Alternative 2 for this reason, because this alternative will:

--Efficiently Use Limited NPS Funds Alternative 2 would implement the comprehensive approach needed by NPS to mitigate the impacts of more frequent flooding. I am concerned with the budget constraints faced by parks and support efforts to efficiently use limited funds for a long term benefit.

--Reroute and Improve the Stehekin Valley Road I support this proactive action as cost effective and providing long term benefits while maintaining vehicular access to these areas. Furthermore, I support the NPS effort to provide continued access to private property within the Stehekin Valley although not required.

--Comply with Lake Chelan NRA GMP/FEIS Alternative 2 best complies with the requirements of the Lake Chelan NRA in terms of restoring the river and protecting public and private property.

Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to seeing the restoration of the Stehekin River and Valley.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]



Sent by: Site Administrator
<npc@npca.org>

11/15/2010 04:26 PM

To noca_superintendent@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Draft EIS Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

Nov 15, 2010

Superintendent Chip Jenkins
North Cascades National Park Complex, 810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-1239

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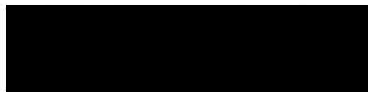
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Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to seeing the restoration of the Stehekin River and Valley.

Sincerely,

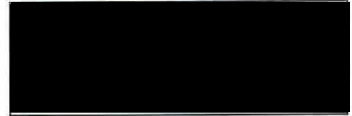


11



Sent by: Site Administrator
<nPCA@npca.org>

11/16/2010 08:57 AM



To noca_superintendent@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Draft EIS Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

Nov 16, 2010

Superintendent Chip Jenkins
North Cascades National Park Complex, 810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-1239

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

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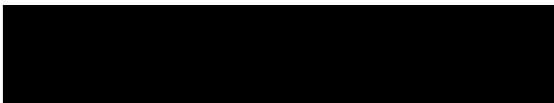
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Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to seeing the restoration of the Stehekin River and Valley.

Sincerely,





Sent by: Site Administrator
<nPCA@npca.org>

11/16/2010 12:58 PM

To noca_superintendent@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Draft EIS Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

Nov 16, 2010

Superintendent Chip Jenkins
North Cascades National Park Complex, 810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-1239

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

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Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to seeing the restoration of the Stehekin River and Valley.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Dec 6, 2010

Superintendent Chip Jenkins
North Cascades National Park Complex, 810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-1239

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

I support Alternative 2 of the EIS Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan, which would implement a comprehensive approach to protect public and private property from floods and provide a cost effective long-term solution for frequent flooding.

Your forward-thinking plan combines preservation of a beautiful, wild place with the practicalities of tight budgets and relocation.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Sent by: Site Administrator
<nPCA@npca.org>

11/16/2010 03:28 PM

To noca_superintendent@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Draft EIS Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

Nov 16, 2010

Superintendent Chip Jenkins
North Cascades National Park Complex, 810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-1239

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

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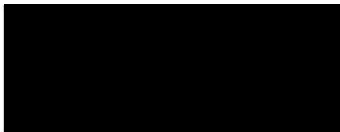
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Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to seeing the restoration of the Stehekin River and Valley.

Sincerely,





Chip Jenkins/NOCA/NPS

01/26/2011 05:44 AM

To "Shelley Kluz" <Shelley_Kluz@nps.gov>, "Jon Riedel" <Jon_Riedel@nps.gov>, "Jack Oelfke" <jack_oelfke@nps.gov>, "Rose Rumball-Petre"

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: SRCIP AND LPP

For the SRCIP comment analysis
Sent from a Blackberry
Chip Jenkins
Superintendent
North Cascades
National Park Service Complex
(360) 854-7204

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 01/25/2011 10:20 PM PST

To: Chip Jenkins

Subject: SRCIP AND LPP

January 25, 2011

Palmer □Chip□ Jenkins, Superintendent
North Cascades National Park
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Chip,

It seems to me to be fundamentally unfair to tie the Stehekin River and the Land Acquisition plans so tightly together when, even though there is a territorial linkage, they are of such vastly different levels of importance and needed time frames that it calls into question these very significant National Park Service drafts dealing with these issues. The plan for the Stehekin River is immediate and likely can be worked out fairly easily. But the land acquisition question is so fundamental to whether the community of Stehekin can or will continue to exist that it calls for a much more comprehensive dialog over a broader time frame.

After witnessing the rather 'cavalier' treatment by NPS of the Upper Stehekin Valley Road issue and seeing the very weak testimony given by the Park Service in the July 2009 committee hearings on rebuilding this road held in Washington D.C., I am of the opinion that NPS is hoping to make another end run around the will of the people by lumping the land acquisition issue in with the River plan and calling for our input responses in such a short time frame.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Park Service, as presently constituted, would love to see the community of Stehekin disappear. And it certainly will if reasonable limits, as outlined by Stehekin

Heritage, are not included in your final draft plan. It is fundamentally unfair for you to spend months and years formulating land acquisition plans that will mean life and death to this community without allowing a much longer time frame for these immediate responses and then a continued dialog for as long as it takes to come to an agreement that will, at least from the standpoint of private land ownership, affirm the opportunity for a continuing, vibrant Stehekin community - a rare resource to have at this premiere gateway into arguably our most outstanding national park.

With regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Chip Jenkins/NOCA/NPS
01/26/2011 05:45 AM

To: "Shelley Kluz" <Shelley_Kluz@nps.gov>, "Jon Riedel"
<Jon_Riedel@nps.gov>, "Rose Rumball-Petre"
<Rose_Rumball-Petre@nps.gov>, "Jack Oelfke"

cc

bcc

Subject: Fw: Stehekin

For the srcip comment analysis
Sent from a Blackberry
Chip Jenkins
Superintendent
North Cascades
National Park Service Complex
(360) 854-7204

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01/25/2011 10:38 PM PST
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: Stehekin

Dear Pres Jenkins,

This email is to support the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community. To that end, I support the management principles of the group Stehekin Heritage. I feel continued land acquisition by the National Park Service will result in the demise of the Stehekin Community. I cannot support the Park Service and feel a socio-economic impact analysis and the other recommendations by the Stehekin Heritage and Chelan County be implemented.

Thank you for your consideration. I am a yearly visitor. I will be following the meetings and developments on these issues.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Chip Jenkins/NOCA/NPS

01/26/2011 06:19 AM

To "Shelley Kluz" <Shelley_Kluz@nps.gov>, "Jon Riedel" <Jon_Riedel@nps.gov>, "Rose Rumball-Petre" <Rose_Rumball-Petre@nps.gov>, "Jack Oelfke"

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Stehekin

For scip comments
Sent from a Blackberry
Chip Jenkins
Superintendent
North Cascades
National Park Service Complex
(360) 854-7204

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 01/26/2011 03:11 PM CET

To: Chip Jenkins

Subject: Stehekin

Mr. Jenkins --

I am writing concerning the changes pending regarding the management of the Stehekin valley. I have been made aware of the proposals on the table concerning land acquisition in the valley and also for the maintenance of the Stehekin River.

The Stehekin Community is very important to me; I lived there for a year with my family when I was 14 and it changed my life. It shaped our family and gave us new an entirely new perspective on many things, chief among them the value of slowing down and choosing to do without certain "amenities" and technologies. What to focus on instead of all the trappings of today's fast-paced world? *Relationships* . However, without a community based in the valley, there would be no alternative way of life exemplified in this unique place, and no relationships to be experienced there. Stehekin's influence on my life is not limited to the past; I usually visit at least once a year and have been back to work three summers.

I ask that you would consider conducting an analysis investigating the impact of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community, and that you would enact a moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in the valley until this study is completed. I also ask that you would expressly state as one of your management goals concerning the Stehekin valley "to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area."

Obviously the road plays an important role in keeping the community alive and connected; I ask that you would maintain the road at its present location and protect it from river erosion.

I will personally be most appreciative of your efforts to keep the community alive, and of your willingness to listen to the requests and opinions of the residents. And I think every guest to the valley will also be a beneficiary of decisions made to protect and nurture the Stehekin Community.

Thank you for listening,

[REDACTED]



Chip Jenkins/NOCA/NPS
01/26/2011 04:30 PM

To Shelley Kluz/NOCA/NPS@NPS, Rose
Rumball-Petre/Seattle/NPS@NPS, Jon
Riedel/NOCA/NPS@NPS, Jack Oelfke/NOCA/NPS@NPS,
cc
bcc

Subject Fw: COMMENTS REGARDING YOUR PLAN

for the srcip public comment

Chip Jenkins
Superintendent
North Cascades National Park Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

(360)854-7205
chip_jenkins@nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

----- Forwarded by Chip Jenkins/NOCA/NPS on 01/26/2011 04:29 PM -----



01/26/2011 04:23 PM

To <Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov>

Subject COMMENTS REGARDING YOUR PLAN

THE STEHEKIN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA A HORROR MOVIE--PG RATED

Dear Representative Hastings "Doc":

Please hear our collective plea. We are a desperate group of citizens who can be rescued only by a power higher than the NPS. The caption defines their horrific mismanagement of a once beautiful, peaceful and desirable valley in which to live and find recreation, Stehekin.

The final nails in our coffins will be driven February 11, 2011, the cutoff from further comments on the most recent NPS plan to seize absolute control of Stehekin property using a convoluted plan. It generated and selected from only four administrative alternatives. It excluded an engineering solution that needs competitive designs from outside firms to completely control Stehekin River floods. That solution would ensure stability needed to plan and reconfigure the valley into a true recreation destination that includes facilities similar to Holden Village—a premier example of melding people with pristine nature. The existing layout of the 9-hole golf course would generate high visitation, big money and several jobs. Archery classes and practice ranges, paved tennis and volley ball courts, horseshoe pitching, fly tying and fishing

classes, weaving, art, woodworking, etc. all are clean, enjoyable, low energy consumption sorts of activities that SHOULD be available.

Stehekin is a transition from big cities to absolute wilderness. NPS has shattered cabins and debris choking the once-beautiful river. They claim it is "part of nature now". I have questioned them why then did we clean up New Orleans? Why clean up after tornados? Why after any of nature's tantrums. They lack reasoning abilities and we are the victims paying for it.

Rather than remaining a cash cow for NPS's endless studies of non-issue "issues" to grow its presence, erase anger of locals by hiring them non-essential jobs, the NPS needs to shrink dramatically and fit into space at the landing.

NPS actions since 1968 to present reveal a history pointing to ridding the Stehekin Valley of all but its own staff and employees. Under its thinly veiled guise of protecting citizens against ravages by floods lies the plan to gradually encourage meandering floodwaters and eventually render the entire valley useless. The current NPS plan identifies and prioritizes structures to be taken and destroyed. It is terrifying

It uses the plan's twisted management solution to obliterate current NPS facilities in the valley and relocate them alongside the airstrip on one of the original golf fairways. New facilities will include beautiful housing and maintenance buildings for both existing and new employees.

Doc, please deny funds for this fiasco. The empire will grow unless a transparent and thorough study is done to prove the facilities and staff generate measurable, tangible benefits that exceed costs. You will discover there are NONE. The empire building must stop! Property owners must retain their rights, freedom and liberty as Americans.

Doc. You are an honest, capable, effective Congressman. Our hopes were buoyed when the House changed hands. Please use your new clout to help us.

The Stehekin Heritage group plus most of the valley. Sincerely, William L. Kelly

From Representative Hastings statements:

"I serve as the Chairman on the House Natural Resources Committee. This post provides an opportunity to make a real difference for families and communities in Central Washington and throughout rural America.

The Committee on Natural Resources has jurisdiction over most of the nation's public lands and plays a pivotal role in shaping federal energy, environment, land use and natural resource policies. National forests, national parks and monuments, wilderness areas, national scenic areas, Indian reservations and BLM lands all fall under the purview of the Committee. With our vast amount of federally owned lands in Central Washington, the Natural Resources Committee works on issues that have a direct impact on our communities on a day-to-day-basis."

"The Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands is responsible for all matters

related to the National Park System, U.S. Forests, public lands and national monuments. Republicans on the Subcommittee are working to expand and protect opportunities for all Americans to enjoy our beautiful public lands, ensuring they are available for recreational opportunities and economic development. Our goal is to ensure that we use our resources wisely so we can provide for our families today while leaving our land in even better shape for future generations of Americans."

Dear "Doc":

I am deep into my 86th year, a remnant of the Greatest Generation. This is a slice of my Distilled Wisdom.

"Most human endeavor begins with clarity as a single idea or concept.

During implementation those involved in its maturation succumb to the human trait of seeking relevance by leaving their "marks". They expand and tinker ballooning the concept into a Gulliver helplessly bound by minutiae.

One cannot unravel this Gordian Knot once formed. It must be slashed, cremated and reborn to satisfy its original objectives without tinkering."





Chip Jenkins/NOCA/NPS
01/31/2011 09:21 AM

To Rose Rumball-Petre/Seattle/NPS@NPS, Shelley
Kluz/NOCA/NPS@NPS, Jon Riedel/NOCA/NPS@NPS, Jack
Oelfke/NOCA/NPS@NPS, Roy Zipp/NOCA/NPS@NPS,
cc
bcc

Subject Fw: Stehekin Heritage meeting

Pease see the comments below (in red) for the SRCIP public comment analysis.

Chip

Chip Jenkins
Superintendent
North Cascades National Park Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

(360)854-7205
chip_jenkins@nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

----- Forwarded by Chip Jenkins/NOCA/NPS on 01/31/2011 09:19 AM -----



[REDACTED]
01/28/2011 05:58 PM

To Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov
cc
Subject Re: Stehekin Heritage meeting

Hello Chip - Here are some preliminary answers to your questions - Answered inline (in red)...

On Fri, Jan 14, 2011 at 5:58 PM, <Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for the note and for sending the files. These will be incorporated into the public comment analysis and administrative record. All of us on the planning team appreciate the time and effort that you and the rest of the subcommittee have invested in this. We also appreciate the candor, clarity and tone of the conversation we had on Monday evening. I believe we clearly understand that you are concerned and want to be involved.

I also look forward to continuing discussion to better understand your concerns and hopes and to try to make ours clearer. To this end I have just a couple of questions, based on the files you attached, that I would like to ask:

Regarding the Draft Land Protection Plan:

I understand you expressed concern about the amount of acreage of land that is proposed for possible exchange.

Specific NPS parcels or areas that you suggest for exchange?

Lower field, former Holcomb property below the log office, Buckner Orchard area - are some possibilities

With rationale for these?

Lower field - it is a large area that is ideal for grazing, crops and raising livestock - an agricultural opportunity.

Holcomb property - business opportunity in the hub-of-activity area, with access to the lake

Buckner Orchard Area - this is one of the best pieces for opportunity - which has been removed from trade for obvious reasons. I believe the NPS needs to figure out how to compensate the Stehekin Community for the loss of such property with trade property that is of equal value - with potential for business opportunities.

I understand concern about the criteria and scoring and you feel this placed too great an emphasis on private property in the Channel Migration Zone.

Do you have specific suggestions on changes to the criteria? The land that is most threatened by the river should be the highest priority. To the scoring system? Based on river only, with the goal of No Net Loss of Land Base Value To the break point between Low-Medium-High? the most threatened by the river is the highest And the thought for why this is better? This eliminates the "political" slant from land priority. . . if the "river decides" then no one can manipulate the system to sell or buy.

Regarding the road and road paving.

We are generally interested in maintaining the existing character of the road and if it is paved and/or rerouted above Harlequin Bridge working to have this relatively seamless with the section of road below Harlequin.

If the NPS wants to "maintain the existing character" -- the consideration should be based on the way the road was in 1968. At that time two vehicles could pass anywhere on the road except for right above Harlequin Bridge (by the rock slide), and Wilson's Corner. Since then, NPS re-routes above 9-mile, below 8-mile, at 7-mile have created many more blind corners, steeper hills and a narrower road, which was not the type of road that the NPS acquired from Chelan County. The NPS has also narrowed the road between 6.25 mile and 7 mile. These are examples of changing the character of the road - while adding the pressure of larger vehicles (NPS buses).

Specifically, that the road width, geometry, grades are approximately within the same range. You expressed concern about the dimensions of the road (concern that the road would be too narrow.) Do you have a suggestion on it should be described, or how the draft description

should be changed? We believe that the road was 24 feet wide with shoulders when it was acquired by the NPS. The NPS received from the county a 60 foot wide right-of-way from the landing to Cottonwood. The character of the road at the time of acquisition was wide enough to pass except for a very few places that required turn-outs because of the rough terrain -- it was a "mine to market" road. The road has narrowed considerably since that time because of encroaching trees and bank erosion.

If surface upgrading is to be done, we would recommend that the drainage and subsurface be adequate before surfacing. *Minimum* upgrade width standards are normally 18 feet - but we think 24 feet would be more appropriate, especially considering the larger buses that run up and down the road 4 times a day during the busiest season- and the ever growing number of bicyclists.

Thanks for considering these questions.

I look forward to taking to you again soon. Feel free to send me emails, give a call on the phone (when there is an opportunity) or let me know if you would like to meet.

We would like to clarify that these views are not necessarily the views of Stehekin Heritage. We are away - in Georgia- and haven't been able to be part of the Heritage meetings for a couple of weeks.

We would also like to thank you for being willing to work with us. We know that our push to get people to write letters will probably produce some letters with a tone that is less than friendly toward the plans (and maybe NPS in general). The issues are quite divisive and there is a lot of strong feeling. As we said when we spoke it is our hope that somehow things can move in a direction that will allow the NPS and the Stehekin Community to leave behind the adversarial relationship that has existed for a long time.

It is our hope that by adopting management policies that **strongly advocate** a private community in Stehekin the NPS will have clearer boundaries within which to make decisions and policy. This seems like it could benefit the NPS, the Stehekin Community and the visiting public. A win-win-win!

with Sincerity - Mark and Monica

Chip

Chip Jenkins
Superintendent
North Cascades National Park Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

(360)854-7205

chip_jenkins@nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Chip Jenkins/NOCA/NPS
01/31/2011 09:22 AM

To Rose Rumball-Petre/Seattle/NPS@NPS, Shelley Kluz/NOCA/NPS@NPS, Jon Riedel/NOCA/NPS@NPS, Jack Oelfke/NOCA/NPS@NPS, Roy Zipp/NOCA/NPS@NPS

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: The Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and the Land Protection Plan (LPP)

For the SRCIP public comment analysis

Chip Jenkins
Superintendent
North Cascades National Park Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

(360)854-7205
chip_jenkins@nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

----- Forwarded by Chip Jenkins/NOCA/NPS on 01/31/2011 09:21 AM -----



01/29/2011 05:16 PM

To Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

cc

Subject RE: The Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and the Land Protection Plan (LPP)

Superintendent Palmer Jenkins
National Park Service January 29, 2011

RE: The Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and the Land Protection Plan (LPP)

I believe the NPS should do the following:

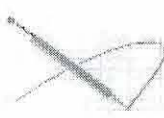
- The National Park Service (NPS) join Chelan County and **conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.**
- Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, **that the NPS and Chelan County work to enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.**

- The Land Protection Plan must **state overtly** in the overall objectives and goals that: **It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.**

I have hiked over Cascade Pass to Stehekin and back dozens of times in my life by myself and with friends and family. I was also a mechanic for Chelan Airways for many years and know the Stehekin Valley and Community very well. The people who live in Stehekin are what make the Stehekin Valley a special place. I believe that the buying up of privately owned land in the valley by the National Park Service is a mistake and a waste of taxpayer money.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Jon Riedel/NOCA/NPS

02/07/2011 04:18 PM

To: [REDACTED]

bcc: Shelley Kluz/NOCA/NPS

Subject: Re: Lake Chelan baselevel [REDACTED]

Hello [REDACTED] and thank you for your thoughtful comments.

I agree with your assessment that the base level of Lake Chelan is a critical factor in analyzing the causes of flooding and river channel instability - particularly in the lower river. However, contrary to your assertion that we missed this important point in the Stehekin River Plan, we have been aware of and measured the impact of the back water effect of the lake since the late 1990s. The hydraulic effects of the raised lake level were documented in a 2001 PUD study that we requested, and are summarized in the white paper sent with the river plan, and in the Effected Environment chapter of the Stehekin River Plan DEIS. You can also obtain a copy of the backwater study from Chelan PUD.

While developing the plan, we spent a great deal of time and resources resurveying several river cross sections at the river mouth and in McGregor Meadows to measure gravel accumulation on the river bed. These are summarized in Appendix 18, at the very end of the EIS, along with a Corps of Engineers estimate on the rough cost of gravel extraction.

At both sites the amount of gravel deposited and cost of removal are immense.

River aggradation along the McGregor Meadows reach is another matter since it is not affected by the lake backwater, and the river gradient is steep. Many years ago I concluded that the main reason for gravel deposition at MM was the rapid increase in valley width from the lower field to MM. The loss of stream velocity and depth leads to significant gravel deposition and ultimately to an unstable channel.

Your appreciation and understanding of the Stehekin River are of great value and interest to me, so I hope that we can continue this dialogue long after this plan is completed.

Sincerely,

Jon
Jon Riedel
Geologist - North Cascades National Park
7280 Ranger Station Road
Marblemount, WA 98267
(360) 854-7330

check out our glacier monitoring webpage at:

<http://www.nps.gov/noca/naturescience/glacial-mass-balance1.htm>

[REDACTED]

To: <Jon_Riedel@nps.gov>


From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/07/2011 01:10PM

Subject: Lake Chelan baselevel

Jon, I'm sure in your analysis you have considered the impact of the Chelan River dam on the Stehekin

River and the migration of bed load. Fundamental geomorphology in stream construction tells us that base level is critical in the erosion ability of a given stream or river. Since the base level of Lake Chelan was raised 20', the bed of the Stehekin River, beginning at the delta, has had increasing bed load which migrates up river. Without routine maintenance, the river bed load is causing a spread out. Your graph clearly shows increasing peaks at the gage. How much of this increase is caused by a rising bed load? Have you done cross-section soundings to determine the elevation increase of the bed? This fact is missing from your interpretation. I realize that you cannot cover every scientific detail if you are not funded nor supported in policy. It is my opinion that the owners of the Chelan Dam must participate in corrective actions on the Stehekin River. The impacts go beyond the limits of the NPS and, unfortunately, too many policy makers know very little about natural forces at work around us. As earth scientists, we have a responsibility to be thorough, objective and informative. If we don't know the answers, we should be open with policy makers. I am very concerned about how and why the NPS only focuses on impacts rather than cause. I hope that as a professional, you will consider these facts in your interpretation but equally important that the policy makers will push for greater investment on behalf of Stehekin Community to include bed load management and bank stability, not just road realignment and property condemnation. I have been observing the river migrations since 1949 and it is part of the reason I began a scientific career. For this reason I feel obligated to make these observations and comments. Aloha,



39

GM -il

Our comment letter in response to NPS SRCIP AND LPP

1 message

Thu, Feb 10, 2011 at 9:22 PM

To: Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov

February 9, 2011

North Cascades National Park Service Complex
Attn: Superintendent Palmer Jenkins
810 SR 20
Sedro-Woolley WA 98284

Email: Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov

RE: Draft SRCIP and LPP

Dear Superintendent Jenkins:

As residents of Chelan County since 1975 and property owners at Stehekin for many years, we thank you for this opportunity to comment on the NPS draft plans for SRCIP and LPP. Our family does not want to loose the Stehekin experience to the Park Service. The community of Stehekin existed long before the NPS came into the picture.

We feel that these 2 draft plans should be handled as separate issues and not be under the umbrella of the 'Stehekin River Flood Management Plan'. It seems that years and years go by while "plans" are developed and nothing is ever accomplished. The most important issue is preserving the private community of Stehekin. That can only be accomplished if there is no further net loss of the private land in the valley. We do not want our property included on any land acquisition list. Our house has been standing since the 1920's and it is just fine - we don't need the Park Service to tell us what to do.

To resolve these issues we fully support the Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement as outlined below:

"Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement —
Draft LPP and SRCIP

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to **conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.**

2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and **enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.**

3. We hope the NPS will continue to **honor current land trade activity** (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.

4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then **the amount land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.**

5. **Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities.** See section 5.2

6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a **management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin** as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

7. **Remove appendix C - the Overlay District** - from this plan.

8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then **let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.**

9. **Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.**

10. **Remove the facilities section from all alternatives** until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

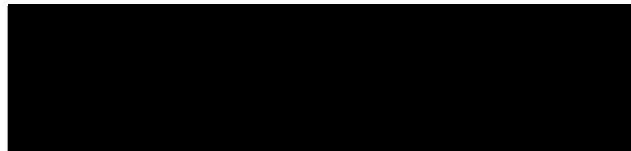
11. **Support Alternative 5** - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

The items included in this Summary Statement are presented with the intention to support management policies that sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community."

Thank you for reading our comments. We are willing to support all practices that acknowledge and protect the value of private property and the community of Stehekin.

Sincerely,





02/11/2011 04:41 PM

To: <noca_superintendent@nps.gov>,
[REDACTED]

bcc

Subject: Stehekin River

February 10, 2011

National Park Service

Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins

810 Washington 20

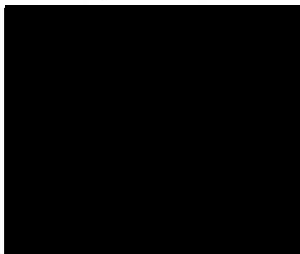
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

I am writing in response to the proposed Stehekin River Corridor Plan and Land Protection Plan.

As a property owner on the Stehekin River, we have experienced first hand the results of recent flooding. However, I feel more threatened by the prioritization of my property than I do the river. The original intent of congress was to protect the natural resources of the North Cascades and community of Stehekin. The preservation of the community can only be accomplished if there is no net loss of private property. The LLP prioritization of the remaining private property implies the NPS should be acquiring virtually all of the private property in the valley. I am in favor of a moratorium on all further private property land acquisition unless it is an exchange for land of comparable value/size. Much more federal land would need to be made available for exchange if the intent is truly to support removing threatened private properties along the river corridor. I would request the National Park Service and Chelan County do an impact analysis on the effect of continued land acquisition on the community of Stehekin. The proposals to protect the road (what little is still available for public use) should be a high priority as well as the restoration of riverbank at the Buckner Homestead.

Thank you for considering my comments,



Cc: Congressman Doc Hastings

Senator Maria Cantwell

Senator Linda Evans Parlette

Senator Patty Murray

Chelan County Commissioner Doug England

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02/02/2011 07:43 AM PST
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: Draft response

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

I am 25 years old, and was raised in Stehekin as a fifth generation descendant of homesteaders. I value the Stehekin valley and will always consider it home. Presently I work in Chelan, but dream of one day raising a family in Stehekin.

I am writing regarding the latest Draft plans. The Land Protection Plan was very disturbing to me, and I am concerned about the future of the Stehekin Community. I know that the Stehekin River has been unpredictable in the past during very high water. I feel that it is more appropriate to endeavor to harden the banks of the river and protect the road than it is to find the private property and development incompatible within the proposed CMZ.

The effect of continued land acquisition and diminishing private acreage threatens the future of the private Stehekin community. This "shrinking" of the land base has been slow and insidious, the inevitable outcome of loss of private land will be the death of the Stehekin Community.

The Stehekin Community is part of my social and cultural heritage. I grew up interacting with all generations, and the community shaped me and I am also deeply affected by the land. My forebears made their mark on Stehekin, and Stehekin continues to make its mark on subsequent generations. I believe that it is imperative to establish a policy of protection for the Stehekin Community. The original legislation recognized the value of the private sector in Stehekin, and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) Investigation in the early 1980's questioned the acquisition of private property and made recommendations that offered support to the private community, but these were largely ignored by the NPS.

I support a cooperative relationship between the NPS, Chelan County and the private community in Stehekin to undertake an investigation into the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community. And I believe it is necessary to enact a moratorium on federal purchase of private land in the Stehekin valley until the results of such a study is available for consideration.

I would like to see the NPS policies include guidelines that establish "no net loss of private land base value" within the Stehekin valley. I believe that the extensive GAO investigation fully supports such a policy.

Stehekin Heritage has made recommendations regarding the SRCIP and the LPP that I support. I would like to see the NPS work closely with the private Stehekin Community in making plans and policies that have the potential to effect the future of the Stehekin Community's viability.

Thank you for considering my comments,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02/03/2011 06:51 AM PST
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: Stehekin Valley

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

My family & I fully support the construction of an 11 mile horse and hiker trail in the valley, but ask that you do so at a location laid out by Stehekin Heritage. Please do not move the Stehekin Valley Road.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

62



11/15/2010 01:02 PM

To Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov, noca_superintendent@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Extend time on Draft Plans

Palmer "Chip" Jenkins
Superintendent North Cascades NPS Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284

As a property owner in the Stehekin Valley, I request an extension of 60 days or more to properly consider the Draft River Corridor and Land Protection plans. Looking at the potential consequences being considered, and the effect on the Stehekin Community, I need much more time to digest, discuss, and plan a proper response.

Additionally, I request that there be recorded public hearings before the comment period closes.

Also, I fully agree with the letter you received from Ron Scutt, President of Stehekin Heritage, below.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02/03/2011 07:21 PM PST
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: Stehekin

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

I am the fifth generation of my family to live in Stehekin, and now my wife, [REDACTED], and I are raising our children in this unique and isolated valley. We feel blessed by the heritage that has been passed down to us, and hope to see that continue in the lives of our children and grandchildren. We have made the choice to stay in Stehekin – fully aware of the benefits and drawbacks of our choice.

Much of my life I have been aware of the conflict between Stehekin's private sector and the National Park Service. I would like to not have to pass on that part of my "heritage" to the next generation. We are very concerned about the direction that the present, and proposed, NPS management policies seem to be taking the Stehekin Community. I fully support management policies that recognize and protect continuation of a vibrant private community in the Stehekin valley. I would like to feel that there is a cooperative relationship, aware of the legislation that recognized the community's value, and its ability to enhance the visitor's experience in Stehekin.

I believe that there was thought and concern for the community involved in the land trade policies, and I am in favor of land trades continuing. I believe that the priority criteria should be based on the threat of property loss by the river. I support the idea of "no net loss of land base value". I believe that the value of the property that is held privately should not be diminished by either acreage or developmental value through trade to the NPS –meaning that if land is traded because of threat by the river, the land for which it is traded should not have developmental rights restricted.

I do believe that some sort of investigation needs to be done to determine the needs of a viable community. Until that investigation is completed, I would like a moratorium on land acquisition within the Stehekin valley to be enacted. I fear that the private land holdings in Stehekin are precariously close to the point that a private community can no longer be supported.

River control and road protection issues can not be put on hold until the other issues that are tied to the SRCIP and LPP are resolved, so I believe that the two documents should be separated and the work to maintain the road in its present alignment should be able to move forward.

The Stehekin River has been a Wild Card, and no one can be sure what any year will bring. I understand that the price to protect the road from damage during floods can be costly, but when it is maintained for the visiting public and such maintenance allows year-round access to private homes, trail heads, businesses, bike tours along the valley floor and the overall enhancement of the visiting public's experience in Stehekin, then such cost is justified.

In closing I want to say I fully support the recommendations set forward by Stehekin Heritage and have attached to this letter. I appreciate their work, and your willingness to address their concerns. I see that your "motto" is:

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. I hope that my personal heritage can be found compatible with the national heritage – and some day your grandchildren and mine can enjoy Stehekin's heritage.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

http://stehekinheritage.com/10points-to-support_329.html

[REDACTED]
02/03/2011 09:29 PM

To <StehekinHeritage1@gmail.com>

cc <Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov>, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject Stehekin Community

My wife's family [REDACTED] members came to the Stehekin Valley in 1888. They were among some of the first white settlers in the valley. That family homesteaded, worked at mining, were involved in guiding tourists, operating boats, operating saw mills, building, and many other aspects of life in the Stehekin Valley. They worked hard and enjoyed the peaceful Stehekin Valley. That family was represented in the Stehekin Valley until 1935, when they moved away to get involved in other pursuits. As well as many other aspects of Stehekin Valley life, they socialized with the people who then lived there, and they owned a considerable amount of property at the time, which was later divided up and sold to numerous people along the side of the Lake and at the end. When the hydroelectric dam was built at Chelan in 1921 the rising Lake water covered much of their property along with the old Field Hotel. [REDACTED] and I returned to the Valley to live and work for ten wonderful years. Our hearts will always be in the Stehekin Valley and with the people who live there, and were our good friends and neighbors.

As has been mentioned a lot of the original property has been purchased by the National Park Service. We would like to see a moratorium on this policy of purchasing property from the community members in the Stehekin Valley. We would like to see efforts made to support and sustain a community of people living in and enjoying the Stehekin Valley as well as promoting it for visitors to enjoy also. We would like to see the road protected as it was for many years. There should be a return of property to private ownership. At one time there was over 1200 acres of private property, and now I think it is down to maybe 400 or so acres. We would like to see that property returned to the people. We hope you will consider what is valuable for the people who live in the Stehekin Valley, so that a valuable community can continue.

[REDACTED]
Attachment = word document with same text as above.

My wife's family [REDACTED] members came to the Stehekin Valley in 1888. They were among some of the first white settlers in the valley. That family homesteaded, worked at mining, were involved in guiding tourists, operating boats, operating saw mills, building, and many other aspects of life in the Stehekin Valley. They worked hard and enjoyed the peaceful Stehekin Valley. That family was represented in the Stehekin Valley until 1935, when they moved away to get involved in other pursuits. As well as many other aspects of Stehekin Valley life, they socialized with the people who then lived there, and they owned a considerable amount of property at the time, which was later divided up and sold to numerous people along the side of the Lake and at the end. When the hydroelectric dam was built at Chelan in 1921 the rising Lake water covered much of their property along with the old Field Hotel. [REDACTED] and I returned to the Valley to live and work for ten wonderful years. Our hearts will always be in the Stehekin Valley and with the people who live there, and were our good friends and neighbors.

As has been mentioned a lot of the original property has been purchased by the National Park Service. We would like to see a moratorium on this policy of purchasing property from the community members in the Stehekin Valley. We would like to see efforts made to support and sustain a community of people living in and enjoying the Stehekin Valley as well as promoting it for visitors to enjoy also. We would like to see the road protected as it was for many years. There should be a return of property to private

ownership. At one time there was over 1200 acres of private property, and now I think it is down to maybe 400 or so acres. We would like to see that property returned to the people. We hope you will consider what is valuable for the people who live in the Stehekin Valley, so that a valuable community can continue.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/04/2011 09:59 AM

To chip_jenkins@nps.gov

cc

Subject Stehekin Heritage letter

Hello, Chip

I have read the press release from the Stehekin Heritage and want you to know that I do not support their position. The Heritage does not represent the Stehekin community at large as it is not an open door organization. Therefore, it does not represent all the voices of Stehekin. I believe that property owners should remain free to sell to whomever they wish. We know that the NPS will not and cannot condemn property (unless, in fact it is extraordinarily incompatible with the definition of the Recreation Area) and thereby appropriate it. The conditions of a willing seller and willing buyer have been legally (Congressionally) established.

However, I do hope that the NPS, in implementing both these plans (river corridor and LLP) consider foremost the protection of private property and realize that one adjustment here has an effect over there....

Specifically, the whole of the Silver Bay peninsula is threatened by the actions of the river as a natural phenomenon. The NPS is planning to make some adjustments along the river bank which can quite possibly have an effect on all those properties. I refer to the alterations along the river bank to offer a commercial rafting pull out area and the proposed bank barbs.

One specific protection that I and others in our neighborhood request is a stabilization of the river bank from the southern point of the River Resort to lock into the log jamb about 100' past that. This improvement would protect all of us from a serious threat of the river strengthening in that direction. It would also maintain the integrity of the river channel which is conducive to fish habitat and would create more fish habitat along that bank. In other words, it is a win/win situation. This was first proposed to me by a regional wildlife biologist and substantiated by hydrologists over the years. If the Stehekin Heritage is asking for land protection then this is one of the most important critical areas.

Please work with Jon Reidel to bring this about.

Thanks for your support and recognition of our concerns.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
Stehekin

To: <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 02/06/2011 05:34PM
Subject: Save Stehekin 2011

February 6, 2011

National Parks Service
Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington 20
Sedro- Woolley , WA 98284

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

We are asking you to support the ten planning objectives and management policies that will sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community, as well as improve visitor services.

1. The National Park Service (NPS) join Chelan County and conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, that the NPS and Chelan County work to enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley .
3. The Land Protection Plan must state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
4. The NPS should continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
5. Change all "acquisition" priorities to read "exchange" priorities. See section 5.2.LPP
6. Separate the SRCIP from the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.
7. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river, "Let the River Decide" which pieces are most threatened and need prioritized, and trade only those vulnerable lands. Priority lists would be only for trading purposes. Land trades should be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their original piece with all property rights intact. Value is defined not only by dollar amount but also by potential uses of the original property.
8. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, to harm the road if allowed to erode
9. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from the plan.
10. Support Alternative 5 – This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation. Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

This appears to be an ongoing battle that the National Parks Service (NPS) has been waging against the

property owners in the unique community of Stehekin , Washington . This appears to be an attempt by NPS to eradicate all non personnel from the Valley.

It is shocking to know that the original private ownership has been reduced by seventy five percent since 1968. The "Stehekin Experience" is what I consider to be one of our National Treasures. The National Parks Service was created to protect that treasure. By preserving the culture of Stehekin, won't NPS be following the guidelines under The Criteria for Parkland ? Do Stehekin and its inhabitants not qualify under National Significance?

We wonder what is said behind closed doors when decisions are made that will eliminate a community. Who are the people that developed the plan for Stehekin back in 1968 when NPS acquired the land that surrounds the community? We are interested in learning the philosophy behind their decisions, and to whom and what will benefit as a result.

The quality of life in Stehekin is one of the last remnants of our past that we can experience when we step foot off that boat. NPS will never be able to replace what they have been allowed to destroy under the guise of "protection."

We appreciate your consideration in a matter of such importance to so many of us.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Manson , Washington

To: <Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov>
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 02/06/2011 09:17AM
Subject: [REDACTED] Response to Draft LPP and SRCIP

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

National Park Service

Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington 20
Sedro- Woolley , WA 98284
Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

Re: Response to Draft LPP and SRCIP

Dear Chip, February 6, 2011

It is my duty and honor to write about my homeland as it pertains to the planning efforts now in progress. Stehekin is more than a name or property, or acreage. Stehekin is for all of us, a place of value that requires special handling. Delicate, even though situated in rugged terrain and conditions, slight changes affect Stehekin in large ways, much like high country environs. Planning efforts do affect us personally as residents and we wish to keep awareness high when they do. Stehekin is worthy of taking time to preserve and protect not only in the environmental realm, but as a culture and community as well that is recognized and loved by many.

Thank you for realizing the sensitivity surrounding issues that affect our homes, families and future lives here in Stehekin. We are required to sustain a good relationship with the NPS as we share ownership of bordering lands, river issues, economic terrains and service to visitors. We appreciate and thank you for the extension of time to prepare our comments. Also, in particular, we appreciate your travel efforts and audience at our January 10 th meeting in Stehekin.

Where to begin? The plans before us are tedious in their scope. We have devoted many hours to finding the most important issues and offering resolutions and recommendations. All our work has been focused on keeping alive the special attributes we love and cherish about Stehekin. When I say "we" I refer to the Stehekin Heritage Sub Committee that has met after hours for many weeks trying to meld our response to the draft plans. It is easy to stand up for something you love, but admittedly our group scratched our heads, or more accurately pulled our hair out trying to put our arms around the broad focus of these plans. I am not sure we even came close to saying all we wanted to due to our limited time (even with an extension). It takes a considerable amount of time to craft good response that is thoughtful and positive, especially as it pertains to issues that affect our lives so intimately.

Perhaps another way to approach the time and hours and focus spent would be to say thank you to you and your staff for prompting us to this work. The work has helped us identify and solidify our view about what we wish to preserve in our community and how that ties to our lands and properties. As a body of people who have shared this land, history, and love of place, the plans motivated us to recognize the

importance of our homeland. Several good things have come of it.

One, we found common ground of love of place and keeping our land base acreage in tact. No further net loss of private land is vitally and imperatively important to us as a community. Regardless of legalities, or "permission" by law, or people wanting to sell to the NPS because they get a good deal, we are at a tipping point as to whether Stehekin will just become a retirement community with few avenues for income, or maintain its special character of people who choose to live a lifestyle that is superior for their children.

Families thrive in Stehekin, and I am not talking about income. Personally, I know of no better place to raise a child. Part of the special conditions here are the relationships children are surrounded with. They interact with oldsters, long time residents with history and knowledge and skills of survival in the mountains. They can play freely without fear. They can experience nature immediately outside their door. They can become confident in themselves as they interact among the rocks, creeks, snow, lake waters and natural events and areas that are amazing.

Part of the draw of families living here, are other families living here . If lands, properties and homes are slowly snatched up and forever unavailable, those opportunities for children and families are forever gone. I can project that with only a few affordable homes and properties or rentals left, Stehekin's character will change. Families will not move up here to be with just a few other children.

My own children are determined to live here. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], have all made the announcement that this is their home and they wish to make a living here. Part of that is possible through [REDACTED] hard work with first a mechanic business then on to running his freight barge. He crafted his barge through his own ingenuity, his own hands and resources. He spent years gathering income to do this project. He spent a year building the barge downlake away from us, so we could stay here and carry on. We have invested heavily in our future here and now want to pass on that security to our family of four children.

The freight business is dependent upon residents and needs of the valley. Take away land, homes, businesses through land acquisition and the basis for businesses is erodes slowly. I use our own business as an example, but project this to all private business and people trying to stay here and make a living.

Please do not misinterpret my missive. The NPS does not owe any of us living! It is not our intention to "live" off of the government or be compensated in any way. It is with pride that we carry on our own businesses and wish to make it on our own. However, what needs addressed so vitally in these plans is the need for our private land base to be protected with no further reductions in any manner. I wholeheartedly support our sub-committee's work concerning "no net loss of private land base."

I would like to insert a personal comment concerning those that wish to sell their properties to the NPS. You have mentioned that there are presently owners offering their properties with improvements to the NPS. In the moral sense, I am appalled at these actions. It is every bit their right as citizens to offer their properties to whom they choose. However, I find it offensive that it is reduced to money issues as to who they offer it to, without considering the importance to our community land base. Obviously the NPS has been able to pay premium price for Stehekin properties. I find these "hold outs" for high government compensation an insult to Stehekin's character. A family cannot afford an overbuilt, over priced home in this valley where income opportunities are limited.

The higher the price, the more the change in Stehekin's character, overall. And the higher the price, the

In the improvement work which followed the explorations, the Engineers never lost this respect for the power and beauty of nature. The roads they built were smooth and safe and some of their bridges were feats of engineering, yet all were designed to preserve the land as "nearly . . . as nature left it." [12] Many of their works were classic models of organic architecture carried out with both the tourist and the landscape in mind. By improving Yellowstone without impairing it, the Corps proved itself an ideal guardian of the natural wonderland willed to the nation.

When the National Park Service assumed control of Yellowstone in 1918, the Corps' endeavors there ended. But, even today, the Engineers continue to foster the national park idea by providing hundreds of recreation areas at their manmade lakes. And their Yellowstone legacy is still viable. In 1860, when Captain Reynolds reached the bluff overlooking the Yellowstone River, he gazed into a wide valley and poignantly forecast that "the sight was one which, in a few years, will have passed away forever." [13] It is a happy irony that his own Corps proved him wrong by helping to save the pristine wilderness which so struck Reynolds. His work and that of his brother Engineers did much to spread knowledge of the park, open it to the general public, protect its wildlife and natural wonders, and enable modern tourists to share the awe experienced by pioneers of an earlier age."

Dear [REDACTED]:

I hope by now we are closer together regarding the Corps' devotion to protecting nature. I believe the Corps was a member of John Muir's original club.

[REDACTED]

Back to the umpteenth "Plan" for Stehekin. When I opened the \$7.50 postage package of exotic, top-grade presentation pamphlets plus a CD I nearly gagged. I can imagine the massive effort expended on its production.

"Changed conditions due to record floods" justified it.

Unless every lineal foot of river shoreline is permanently guarded against erosion it will never cease. Meandering and destruction of human endeavor will continue. However, that ensures NPS response to changing conditions and maintaining its jobs.

I know from 31-years in government that 80% of all meaningful work is done by 20% of its people. Time to slim down.

Free enterprise in the valley would bring more and better jobs than working for government. The destroyed nine-hole golf course could be finished. An archery facility for training and practice. A spa. Tennis and a basketball court. A controlled river would protect new development. Vehicle access to the lake from the airstrip should be completed.

narrower the buyer's field becomes until the last hold out, which has been the NPS in other similar scenarios. I find buying, building and re-selling with the knowledge and intent that, "hey, the government will bail us out in the end is highly questionable. It is my opinion that the NPS should be dismissing themselves immediately from any further property acquisitions as these types of land deals are arising and these trends are far removed from reasonable and responsible NPS stewardship. Gathering more real estate in this valley is not, should not, be any part of the NPS management. In fact, what is the purpose of gathering any more lands?

I would like the NPS to state in their LPP plan, if they are going to continue to purchase lands, what their need is of that land. What use is it for them? What does it mean to the total lands of to have a few more acres considering the 62,000 surrounding acres of the Lake Chelan Recreation Area? A few acres more mean nothing to that large of sum. However, to our community, our families and our future, every acre is priceless.

Going back to what our meetings solidified, the second main point is protection of private lands from the river. When we began this process, we felt we were identifying solutions to an unwieldy river. We appreciate the staff and in particular Jon Reidl's work as a knowledgeable and caring person and his contributions to the SRCIP. However, it would seem overall that the philosophy of management of the river is "no management." I would like to challenge that philosophy and support loudly the keeping of the river where it runs today. I appreciate Jon's suggestions of barbs and attempts to ward off some erosions and cuts, but I feel by moving the road, and having a goal of removing structures from the CMZ, we are trying to make a wild and scenic river corridor. This management philosophy is not fitting of the LCNRA area that is also the home of residents and summer homes. Wild and scenic does not fit Stehekin's LCNRA as a management approach.

Instead, if we are calling this "management" of a river, I would like to see a more aggressive approach from the NPS with bank protection, co-operative works with private land holders and Chelan County towards river protection, protection of the lower eleven miles of road where it lies today, removal of piles of logs that are manipulating channels towards the road or private property, and dredging considered in a more positive light as a solution. The river will always run, and by the time it has had its way it will run everywhere if we let it. NPS should identify a goal of preserving the community as part of the LCNRA legislation, as well as serving the visitor by keeping the integrity of what we have, at this time, protected from river damage.

I would also like to challenge the use of the "CMZ" as a management tool in the Stehekin Valley . From what I understand, use of a CMZ is applied nationally to river corridors in government owned areas. I do not believe Stehekin fits this zoning parameter. Stehekin Valley is not a wide mountain valley. The river will touch each side of the valley as it meanders, left alone. The CMZ is virtually the entire valley floor, which puts management of properties all within this zoning category. This is too broad of a brush stroke for our homeland. When I see the lists of priorities for land acquisition based on this zoning principal, we are in trouble. I do not think original legislation intended the valley floor to be governed by river zoning, nor do the private property owners need this added squeeze on their rights. I suggest removing the CMZ as an avenue for land trades or acquisition. I suggest the philosophy of "Let the River Decide" as we cover in our sub-committee proposals, where river crisis properties are served first come first served, rather than employing our whole land base acreage in lists, with priorities, and based on CMZ. I would also suggest working closely with Chelan County with this approach as private land holder's representatives. This can and should be a positive approach to the overall goal of "no net loss of private land base."

Finally, I would like to re-iterate the work of the Stehekin Heritage Sub-Committee at this time and include

our summary points that I intrinsically support. You will be receiving our packet this coming week and I would like to add my voice in hoping you will consider each following point seriously:

No Net Loss of Land Base Value

In order for Stehekin to sustain a unique and valuable private community into the future, the security and permanence of the valley's current private land base is critical. The value of Stehekin's private community is proven over time, noteworthy enough to be set aside in legislation, and preferred by the visiting public. The private land base within the valley has been reduced by seventy five percent of original private ownership since 1968 affecting the future character of Stehekin. With lands being removed from private ownership, without limitation, we are at a critical point in time as to whether the value and one of a kind culture can continue.

Our goal is to preserve and protect what remaining private lands exist in Stehekin and call for "No further net loss of private land base value." We champion the cause that all pertinent governing agencies recognize, adopt and support this principle, thereby displaying support for the future of the private community within Stehekin, by assuring permanence of our land base .

Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement – Draft LPP and SRCIP

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley .
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities. See section 5.2
6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.
8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location

10. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

The items included in this Summary Statement are presented with the intention to support management policies that sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community.

In summary, Chip, I would appreciate your in-depth look into our points. They are not just written words. They should reflect our sincere outlook on our future here in Stehekin. Again, the work on these plans has been a positive strengthening session for thinking about our future here. Personally, it is my intention to work together positively with you and your staff. Thank you for considering my viewpoint.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

To: <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/06/2011 10:56AM

Subject: Stehekin River Implementation Plan DEIS

Dear Superintendent Jenkins, I have ridden to Stehekin by horse and by boat. The area is unique in the respect that you can't drive to it. It is a special place for many people including the ones that live there. I support the community and request the North Cascades National Park make every effort to work with the community and Stehekin Heritage to keep their community economically and culturally sustainable. When we (a group of 6) rode our horses in from the Bridge Creek Trailhead, we stayed for two nights at the Ranch. It was wonderful to have a place like this to stay. We had a place for our stock, good food and a good cabin. The trip to "town" on the valley bus made a good day adventure. The 6 of us enjoyed the area, spent our money there and look at the experience with a great deal of fondness. Several of my friends make this trip every year.

I support the points brought out in the 5 th Alternative that Stehekin Heritage supports. This appears to be the best option.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To: <Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/06/2011 11:38AM

cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Stehekin Valley (SRCIP EIS)

Chip, Attached are my thoughts and comments. One can provide detailed comments on line items but I feel that the greatest impact is not on a specific item but the plan itself and its purpose for all its stated objectives. History is important and that is brushed over by supposed facts. The most important reason for the existence of National Parks is to protect the resources for the greater enjoyment of the citizens of the United States . The resources include keeping the integrity of the Stehekin Valley Community as a functioning community. Every newcoming bureaucrat has his/her opinion on what makes this community function. Most of all, it is knowing, caring and participating with your neighbors. New comers loose sight of that and view it from their outside perspective rather than from within. That is the reason I requested a special audience with Jon and Vicky and I do appreciate their concerns and efforts but they must function from the instructions from Sedro Woolley and Washington DC . Aloha, [REDACTED]

EIS Comment.doc on Island Resources header

To: Mr Chip Jenkins February 6, 2011

Superintendent

North Cascade National Park

ATTN: SRCIP

810 State Route 20

Sedro -Woolley WA, 98284

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

I am opposed to any of the proposed plans. I continue to be disappointed in the actions of the NPS with respect to the citizen users of the National Parks. Since the North Cascades National Park (NCNP) was created, there has been a constant attack on the Congressional intent, which established the NCNP. It promoted the integrity of the Stehekin Valley Community of private full time and part time property owners.

As described in both the Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan EIS (SRCIP) and the draft LPP, there is a frontal attack on the integrity of the Stehekin Community by the NPS. This is done under the guise of budgets and natural resource events when, in fact, it is an effort to convert the valley to a playground for the bureaucracy and the elite conservation groups. Eliminating or strangling the Stehekin Community is the objective in total violation of the Congressional Act. You invite comments on the EIS when in fact, this is to direct focus away from the actual effort.

For nearly 100 years this hardy community dealt with fires, floods, road damage, etc with the help and aid of the US Forest Service, the County of Chelan and most of all members of the Stehekin Community. Until the NPS arrived, with its cynical involvement with the conservation elite, Stehekin was a place of peace and hardship with the interaction of the natural environment and its events. Bridges did not collapse under snow load, road washouts were repaired, bed load and snags where removed to assist the river in maintaining its banks.

We all recognized the existence of the flood plain and adjusted accordingly. The assumption that the federal government has superior knowledge and ability is a joke. As a former bureaucrat, I recognize that this is a falsehood. You (NPS) on the one hand stop action at the shooting range to protect what may be a spotted owl habitat and then propose and justify a road realignment right through the heart of the same forest. Please, just admit it, you (NPS) and the NCCC (and their ilk) want the private owners out of the

All made requests and it was agreed that the MM owners want NPS to commit in writing that the present SVR be maintained open year round so that permanent residents and occasional visits are always able to have access their properties. Further, that the NPS, in the event the present SVR is cutoff, provide a plan in writing and map/action plans of alternatives to provide year round access to the 15 properties.

JR and VG agreed that this message would be conveyed to NPS Superintendent Chip and that every effort would be made to include this in the Plan.

SPB edit.

In addition to this meeting and separate from the meeting , SPB feels that the NPS is hypocritical in dealing with environmental issues and, on the one hand, threatens our property with the Endangered Species Act when it comes to the spotted owl habitat, and yet proceeds to destroy forest cover in the same location for a new road alignment and justifies it because it can't maintain a pre-existing road and river bank. The arrogance of the bureaucracy is unbelievable and seems to be consistent in the NPS.

Island Resources Ltd.

"Resource management with imagination"

Water Land Energy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/07/2011 04:07PM

Subject: Stehekin Community

Dear Mr Jenkins,

We support the Stehekin Community and management positions presented by Stehekin Heritage and strongly urge you to consider and implement each idea they have proposed.

We thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

To: chip_jenkins@nps.gov

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/07/2011 02:20PM

Subject: Stehekin Future

Dear Mr. Jenkins and NPS associates,

As a parent, grandparent and friend of many citizens of the Stehekin community, as well as a frequent visitor to this amazing and unique area, I am EXTREMELY concerned for it's future.

I am in complete support of the Management Plan of the Stehekin Heritage to preserve and protect the private land.

A socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community should be conducted, and until this is completed, having the NPS and Chelan County work to enact a moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley. A Land Protection Plan stating overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. The NPS should continue to honor current land trade activity with no net loss of private property land base value.

Let's "Let the River Decide" which pieces are most threatened and need prioritized, and trade only those vulnerable lands. Priority lists would be only for trading purposes. Land trades should be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their original piece with all property rights intact. Value is defined not only by dollar amount but also by potential uses of the original property.

The Stehekin Valley Road should be maintained at its present location and the road protected from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, where it would harm the road if allowed to erode.

Change all "acquisition" priorities to read "exchange" priorities.

Separate the SRCIP and the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.

Remove appendix C ' the Overlay District - from the plan.

I WHOLEHEARTILY SUPPORT Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation. Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

This wonderful, uniquely distinct private community, their land, businesses and visitor availability **MUST BE PROTECTED!!!** The wise, well thought through plans of the Stehekin Heritage Committee is an intelligent way to begin.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: <Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov>, <Jon_Riedel@nps.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/07/2011 07:26AM

cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Stehekin Heritage (SRCIP-EIS)

Chip and Jon, In addition, I wish to add my review of the Stehekin Heritage Summary of the SRCIP-EIS. I strongly support their recommendations. The one added thought I have is that any and all land ownership changes require the public sale of private lands where owners have assumed lifetime residency even when exchanged. As the children of residents enter the home market, they need to have an opportunity to remain at home. These should be residency offerings. This could also be accomplished by allowing further subdivision of existing private lands so that the opportunity remains for valley residents. This could also be accomplished via County zoning ordinances. The NPS policy has been to wait for the resident's passing then destroy and remove the evidence of their existence, thus reducing private ownership over time which then justifies the violation of the Congressional Act. [REDACTED]

Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement –
Draft LPP and SRCIP

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- .
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
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7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.
8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.
9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

The millions of words, dollars and wasted hours sawing sawdust on minute and endless "issues" plus enforcement of anti-people rules have driven people from the valley and killed dreams of building or replacing lost cabins. That you require gravel and stone for construction be imported from Chelan rather than use the billions of cubic yards in the valley is psychotic.

My solution for the Recreation Area is this: Demand common sense prevail in all rules, regulations and actions. Place responsibility with the Corps of Engineers to design and construct all infrastructure for the entire Recreation Area including the Stehekin River cure.

Like an unruly child the Stehekin River must be restrained not allowed to flood the valley floor needlessly. Shoreline protection will complement nature. Roads must be in safest locale. Homes and facilities must be safeguarded. People shall be placed first in all solutions. Let the Corps hire NPS displaced folks that have suitable skills for its work.

NPS PLAN TO ERASE PRIVATE RESIDENTS FROM NATIONAL RECREATION AREA FROM THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY--AUGUST 2010

"Recent major floods and resultant channel changes on the lower Stehekin River have intensified flood and erosion threats to NPS facilities and are impacting natural resources within Lake Chelan NRA." It goes on to say these new threats from unprecedented conditions needs a new plan to meet NPS goals, which are:

1. Sustainably operate and maintain NPS administrative facilities, public access (roads and trails), and campgrounds.
2. Protect water quality, scenic values, habitat, and natural processes of the Stehekin River; and
3. Continue visitor services provided by the Stehekin Community, including those services and facilities found on private lands.

So the number one goal protects bureaucrats and their assets.

Your number two goal includes to "protect the natural process of the Stehekin River". That means eliminate any serious effort to halt all bank erosion that undercuts trees that topple into the river and form log jams that backs up water that seeks new routes to bypass blockage leading to cutting out meandering channels and depositing piles of debris in the old channel.

Brilliant! So the scenic values of cabins, trash, mini-mountains of trees/limbs/brush choking the river thrills visitors.

I have always suspected that a hidden element within the NPS D.C. hierarchy wants to eliminate all trace of human activity in the Stehekin valley and include it in wilderness. Your goal to defend Mom Nature's eternal river meandering to eventually destroy private properties and drive owners out of the valley tend to reinforce that suspicion.

Had the United States adopted your goal to "protect the natural processes of the Stehekin River" as national policy America's development would have been stunted to that of a second class country.

Whether creek, stream or river, all flowing water meanders when entering flat plain. The Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Colorado, Columbia and hundreds of other drainages would have left millions of square miles of land useless for development.

The fact people of vision decided not only to control them but also utilize them to include permanent dependable shorelines, flood control, dams for hydropower, water storage, locks for economical transportation, recreation and other benefits. They proved an incomparable resource for American enterprise.

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

The items included in this Summary Statement are presented with the intention to support management policies that sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community.

Jon Riedel/NOCA/NPS

02/07/2011 04:18 PM

To [REDACTED]

cc [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject Re: Lake Chelan baselevel(1)

Hello [REDACTED] and thank you for your thoughtful comments.

I agree with your assessment that the base level of Lake Chelan is a critical factor in analyzing the causes of flooding and river channel instability - particularly in the lower river. However, contrary to your assertion that we missed this important point in the Stehekin River Plan, we have been aware of and measured the impact of the back water effect of the lake since the late 1990s. The hydraulic effects of the raised lake level were documented in a 2001 PUD study that we requested, and are summarized in the white paper sent with the river plan, and in the Effected Environment chapter of the Stehekin River Plan DEIS. You can also obtain a copy of the backwater study from Chelan PUD.

While developing the plan, we spent a great deal of time and resources resurveying several river cross sections at the river mouth and in McGregor Meadows to measure gravel accumulation on the river bed. These are summarized in Appendix 18, at the very end of the EIS, along with a Corps of Engineers estimate on the rough cost of gravel extraction.

At both sites the amount of gravel deposited and cost of removal are immense.

River aggradation along the McGregor Meadows reach is another matter since it is not affected by the lake backwater, and the river gradient is steep. Many years ago I concluded that the main reason for gravel deposition at MM was the rapid increase in valley width from the lower field to MM. The loss of stream velocity and depth leads to significant gravel deposition and ultimately to an unstable channel.

Your appreciation and understanding of the Stehekin River are of great value and interest to me, so I hope that we can continue this dialogue long after this plan is completed.

Sincerely,

Jon
Jon Riedel
Geologist - North Cascades National Park
7280 Ranger Station Road
Marblemount, WA 98267
(360) 854-7330

check out our glacier monitoring webpage at:

<http://www.nps.gov/noca/naturescience/glacial-mass-balance1.htm>

[REDACTED] -----

To: <Jon_Riedel@nps.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/07/2011 01:10PM

cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Lake Chelan baselevel

Jon, I'm sure in your analysis you have considered the impact of the Chelan River dam on the Stehekin River and the migration of bed load. Fundamental geomorphology in stream construction tells us that base level is critical in the erosion ability of a given stream or river. Since the base level of Lake Chelan was raised 20', the bed of the Stehekin River, beginning at the delta, has had increasing bed load which migrates up river. Without routine maintenance, the river bed load is causing a spread out. Your graph clearly shows increasing peaks at the gage. How much of this increase is caused by a rising bed load? Have you done cross-section soundings to determine the elevation increase of the bed? This fact is missing from your interpretation. I realize that you cannot cover every scientific detail if you are not funded nor supported in policy. It is my opinion that the owners of the Chelan Dam must participate in corrective actions on the Stehekin River. The impacts go beyond the limits of the NPS and, unfortunately, too many policy makers know very little about natural forces at work around us. As earth scientists, we have a responsibility to be thorough, objective and informative. If we don't know the answers, we should be open with policy makers. I am very concerned about how and why the NPS only focuses on impacts rather than cause. I hope that as a professional, you will consider these facts in your interpretation but equally important that the policy makers will push for greater investment on behalf of Stehekin Community to include bed load management and bank stability, not just road realignment and property condemnation. I have been observing the river migrations since 1949 and it is part of the reason I began a scientific career. For this reason I feel obligated to make these observations and comments. Aloha, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/08/2011 01:34 PM

To chip_jenkins@nps.gov

cc

Subject Stehekin/

I support the Stehekin community and request that the North Cascades National Park make every effort to work with the community and Stehekin Heritage to keep their community economically and culturally sustainable.

- Stehekin provides vital services, supplies, and amenities to equestrians, who arrive by trails or as visitors by boat. Stehekin is unique - places that you can access by horse, foot, plane or boat and then enjoy like this are nearly nonexistent.
- I fully support the construction of an 11 mile horse and hiker trail in the valley, but ask that you do so at a location laid out by Stehekin Heritage. Please do not move the Stehekin Valley Road.
- We support continued and expanded stock camping at Purple Point Horse Camp and ask that any new group camping sites for non-stock users not reduce the availability of stock camping.
- We support the points packaged as a community 5th Alternative that Stehekin Heritage supports, which appears to be the best option for the long term vitality of the community.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
02/08/2011 08:43 AM

To chip_jenkins@nps.gov

cc

Subject Stehekin community

Stehekin is a wonderful place to recreate. With so many people all crowded on top of each other this community is the greatest place to get away. A place to get away and renew, reflect, relax.

The road is already in place, wouldn't it be far cheaper to maintain than completely remap and rebuild? I also would like to see the 11 mile horse and hiker trail be completed, as laid out by Stehekin Heritage.

I also would like to strongly support continued and expanded stock camping at Purple Point Horse Camp and ask that non saddle stock camps not infringe on stock user opportunities.

Backcountry Horseman,
[REDACTED]

Email submitted from:

Mailing Address

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We believe that there are some minor changes to be considered. 1. Section 5.2LLP. Change all "acquisition" priorities to read "exchange" priorities. 2. Remove appendix C- The OVERLAY DISTRICT- from the plan. We are in full support of Alternative 5. WE believe this is the most practical plan. We hope to see someday the road to cotton wood, re opened. The old Stehekin has been missed from many people thought Washington state. It was always a great pleasure to take people back in that part of the park. People to this day talk about what wonderful experience that was. Thank you Sincerely [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Mike Kaputa <Mike.Kaputa@CO.CHELAN.WA.US>
02/08/2011 03:44 PM
To "Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov" <Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov>
cc
Subject FW: Scan from a Xerox WorkCentre

Mike Kaputa
Director, Chelan County Natural Resource Department
316 Washington Street, Suite 401
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Desk: (509) 667-6584
Cell: (509) 670-6935
Fax: (509) 667-6527
http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/nr/nr_main.htm

Chip Jenkins, Superintendent February 7, 2011
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, W A 98284

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

Chelan County is pleased to provide comments on the draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Land Protection Plan (LPP). We appreciate the comment deadline extension provided by the National Park Service (NPS) as well as the additional public meetings NPS held to provide community members more opportunity to consider these important documents. Our recommendations below build upon our comments submitted to NPS in October 2008 regarding the Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Range of Alternatives. While our comments cover a number of topics, we are most concerned about the impacts of the LPP and future private property acquisitions on the local community. We request that the NPS suspend land acquisitions in Stehekin and delay adoption of the LPP until the effects of these actions on the local community can be fully understood. We believe that our recommendations below layout a path forward to resolve these issues.

We have provided our October 2008 comments in italics below with additional response based on our review of the current versions of the SRCIP and LPP.

Our comments are as follows:

1. The SRCIP must include active and ongoing management of large woody debris (LWD) in the Stehekin River and provide opportunities for re-location of LWD within the system. We recognize that multiple agencies have jurisdiction over LWD management and that only through a coordinated approach will a viable LWD program be established. We support Management of Large Woody Debris (LWD) Alternative 4, which allows for logjam manipulation anywhere along the Stehekin River below Bullion Raft Launch just below High Bridge. We encourage the NPS to facilitate development of an interagency approach to LWD management so that the multiple agencies with jurisdiction over LWD management will have a coordinated approach that is easily understandable to the public.

The criteria used to determine NPS property eligibility for exchange should reflect the

priorities of the SRCIP effort first (i.e. channel migration zone) and consider other priorities, such as wildlife, to a lesser extent; otherwise, very few properties will be available for exchange.

We are concerned that only 23.81 acres of NPS property have been identified in the LPP as being available for exchange and that all private property in Stehekin except for 4.75 acres has been identified as a medium or high priority for acquisition. The primary driver for these priorities is the process outlined in the LPP, pp. 33-48. The NPS process for establishing land acquisition priorities and lands available for exchange requires substantially more review and consideration. It is particularly unclear that the priority categories (high, medium and low) for private property acquisition reflect appropriately the priorities of the SRCIP or the needs of the community or that the NPS properties for exchange were adequately considered. We strongly encourage the NPS to re-consider its evaluation criteria, perform more detailed field inspections as noted on p. 38 of the LPP, and consider the effect of cluster development and other zoning and land use tools on the exchange portfolio. Chelan County requests that NPS release the raw data and scores used in the development of the SRCIP and LPP alternatives to the public and include all of this information in the SRCIP appendices and LPP.

3. Land exchanges with private property owners in flood-prone areas should be a high priority action in the final plan and must consider long-term impacts to the private land base in the Stehekin community. We are concerned that an overall erosion of the private land base in Stehekin will have long-term negative effects on the community. Chelan County is committed to working with NPS to address zoning and cluster development opportunities that may help to facilitate additional land exchanges.

The County continues to be concerned that erosion of the private land base in Stehekin is negatively affecting the ability of Stehekin to remain a viable community. Community vitality and economic productivity are intricately linked to available land base.

Continued acquisition of private property by the NPS in Stehekin removes a critical component of economic development and long-term community sustainability. The County requests that the NPS delay adoption of the LPP and discontinue immediately land acquisitions in Stehekin until a socioeconomic analysis of the community, including an evaluation of the role of the private land base in the community, can be completed.

The County continues to support exchanges with private property owners, although given our comments above regarding the small amount of NPS property available for exchange, exchanges do not appear to be a viable option for the NPS. The County reiterates its commitment to work with the NPS and the Stehekin community to develop creative zoning and development solutions that would maintain the vitality of Stehekin, and we are unequivocal in our support of a socioeconomic study of the Stehekin community. We encourage the NPS to review the findings of the January 22, 1981 GAO report on Stehekin that recommended that private lands purchased in Stehekin by the NPS should be returned to private ownership, and the NPS should request that GAO support a current socioeconomic analysis of the Stehekin community.

2

Chelan County requests that the NPS include specific language in the LPP that a viable and thriving local community in Stehekin is not only consistent with NPS goals and

objectives but also essential in supporting and enhancing visitor experiences to the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and North Cascades National Park.

4. Current bank stabilization projects must be maintained, and future bank stabilization projects where both private and public lands are involved must be approached in a comprehensive manner. Many projects over the years have only partially (and usually ineffectively) addressed bank stabilization due to inappropriate design driven by split land ownership. A reach-based approach that considers an entire project regardless of land ownership should be used to design bank stabilization projects.

The County supports Erosion Protection Measures Alternative 2 with consideration of additional rock barbs outlined in Alternative 4. We encourage the NPS to work with private property owners during the design of these measures to ensure that site-specific treatments address the full extent of erosion and not only threats to federal property. There are many examples in the Stehekin where erosion control measures were limited by property boundaries and resulted in inadequate protection of both federal and private property.

5. Rerouting the Stehekin Valley Road near McGregor Meadows should be closely coordinated with private interests in the area to determine potential negative impacts to private businesses or access to private property.

The re-route of the Stehekin Valley Road has not adequately considered the long-term impacts to the community and private property base. While we generally support the location of public infrastructure away from natural hazards, such action must also consider socio-economic impacts to local communities. It is not clear that the NPS or Federal Highway Administration has adequately considered local impacts of a road reroute. We are very concerned that rerouting the Stehekin Valley Road will essentially cut off access to private property owners in McGregor Meadows. Current NPS policy allows for maintenance of private property access from Stehekin Valley Road to the extent feasible; clearly, the NPS is relocating the road because it is not feasible to maintain it in its current position. We can only come to the conclusion that the NPS will determine that private property access to McGregor Meadows will no longer be feasible in the very near future. We believe that the NPS should enter into permanent agreements with residents of McGregor Meadows stating that private access will be maintained by the NPS so long as residences are located in McGregor Meadows.

6. The SRCIP should include an implementation plan with a timeline and identify potential funding sources, both public and private.

We reiterate that an implementation plan with a timeline and funding sources should be included in the SRCIP.

3

We request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss these issues and how to address them. Please contact us at (509) 667-6215. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to continued collaboration with the National Park Service in Stehekin.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF CHELAN COUNTY

[REDACTED]
02/09/2011 02:37 PM

To Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov, Todd.Young@mail.house.gov

cc

Subject Stehekin Heritage Support Letter

Attached is a letter regarding the Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan and the Land Protection Plan. Thank you for your attention to these issues.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
February 9, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Stehekin Heritage, and the Stehekin residents themselves, to request your immediate attention be given to the issues of the Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan and the Land Protection Plan. I am in full support of the Stehekin Heritage organization's management plan and ideas, and suggest that the National Park Service, as well as the federal and state governments, give the proposed plan due consideration.

With regard to the NPS's management of the Stehekin Valley over the past several decades, one must ask the question, "What is the goal of the NPS in the Stehekin Valley?" Regardless of the information presented in the public and political realms, the actions of the NPS suggest that their primary goal is to acquire the entirety of the Stehekin Valley as National Park land, and allow said land to be made either accessible or inaccessible by the courses of nature (eg-flood damage to the Upper Stehekin Road in 2003) with no regard for the people who have helped to make Stehekin the cultural gem that it is today.

National parks have their place in America, but I contend that the people who make up our great nation are a higher priority than enlarging a park, most of which is already inaccessible to the general public due to the degeneration of the Upper Stehekin Road, which the NPS has not seen fit to repair. The unique culture of Stehekin, created and maintained primarily by full-time residents and liken to that of Colonial Williamsburg, gives visitors a glimpse of a lifestyle extinct in mainstream America. The businesses that attract the majority of the valley's visitors are privately owned and operated. Should the NPS pursue the acquisition of more private lands within the Stehekin Valley, private business would ultimately cease to exist, access to the beauty of the park would remain limited due to poor accessibility maintenance, and the unique culture that attracts visitors to this beautiful valley would disintegrate, leaving nothing but the remains of a special piece of Washington State.

I urge you to expand your foresight beyond your own agenda, and see the situation from the eyes of both Stehekin residents and visitors. If the goal of the NPS is to preserve this country, its people, and its history, then give heed to Stehekin Heritage and their goals. Please, at a minimum, halt all federal purchases of private property in the Stehekin Valley until a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin community has been conducted, and make supporting an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation

Area a priority. Thank you for your consideration of and action on this issue.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Stehekin Visitor and Seasonal Employee

[REDACTED]
02/09/2011 12:52 PM

To chip_jenkins@nps.gov

cc

Subject I support

Dear Superintendent Jenkins:

I believe that in order for Stehekin to sustain a unique and valuable private community into the future, the security and permanence of the valley's current private land base is critical. The value of Stehekin's private community is proven over time, noteworthy enough to be set aside in legislation and preferred by the visiting public.

My sister informs me that the private land base within the valley has been reduced by seventy five percent of original private ownership since 1968 affecting the future character of Stehekin. With lands being removed from private ownership without limitation, Stehekin is at a critical point in time as to whether the value of its one of a kind culture can continue.

I'm sure the goal to preserve and protect what remaining private lands exist in Stehekin and call for "No further net loss of private land base value" is of critical importance to the Stehekin community. I champion the cause that all pertinent governing agencies recognize, adopt and support this principle, thereby displaying support for the future of the private community within Stehekin, by assuring permanence of the Stehekin land base.

I also believe the following:

- The NPS should continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted. (more. . .)
- If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river, "Let the River Decide" which pieces are most threatened and need prioritized, and trade only those vulnerable lands. Priority lists would be only for trading purposes. Land trades should be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their original piece with all property rights intact. Value is defined not only by dollar amount but also by potential uses of the original property. (more. . .)
- Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, to harm the road if allowed to erode. (road alignment, Alternative 5)
- Change all "acquisition" priorities to read "exchange" priorities. See section 5.2. LPP (more. . .)
- Separate the SRCIP and the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.
- Remove appendix C ' the Overlay District - from the plan. (more. . .)
- Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation. Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving

visitor access. (Alternative 5)

Most sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Chip Jenkins/NOCA/NPS on 02/09/2011 11:55 AM -----

[REDACTED]
02/09/2011 11:45 AM

To <Chip_Jenkins@nps.gov>

cc [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject Emailing: Response to Stehekin Land Protection Plan.pdf

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Response to Stehekin Land Protection Plan.pdf

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

Lake Chelan Boat Company

Lake Chelan Boat Co.
[REDACTED]

February 9, 2011

National Park Service Superintendent Chip Jenkins

810 Washington 20

Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

We have been involved in transporting visitors to Stehekin for twenty-eight years and operated the NPS concession facility at the Stehekin landing for fourteen years. We have come to understand how valuable and appropriate it is to provide services for all ages and abilities, so they can enjoy the lands that have been set aside as the National Recreation Area and National Park. We have also learned how challenging that can be at times and that it takes time to develop services to facilitate this.

The needs, of each visitor, vary dependant on age and mobility. We believe the visitor's need for food, shelter and transportation has been carefully nurtured and developed by the National Park Service, Lake Chelan Boat Company and the Community of Stehekin. It takes time to develop and can disappear in the blink of an eye, or even with change of ownership between private parties.

We have learned that the National Park Service may be interested in acquiring more of the remaining private land in the Stehekin Valley. We are stating that we do not want to see that happen. Any future land acquisition by the Park would have a detrimental effect on the very small community that exists and their ability to survive and prosper. If they do not survive and prosper, the visitor is left with the possibility of lesser services or no services to enable them to benefit and enjoy the natural resources that have been set aside for them and for future generations. We do not believe the NPS concession facility can be counted on to always be there to provide services. Because there is no true ownership by an individual, we feel that government facilities like the Stehekin facility could disappear due to a lack of an interested concessionaire or a line item budget cut. If the National Park Service owned all of the lands in Stehekin and this happened, who would be allowed enjoyment of the resources? We feel it would be a limited and select group of very able people.

Aside from the services for visitors, we feel that the community, because of their private ownership, are

good stewards of the lands. They are true owners and thus care for, monitor and protect the interest of the valley.

We hope the final draft of the Land Protection Plan states clearly that it supports the survival of the community, and that land trades may occur, but no further purchases of private lands by the National Park Service or any other government entity will be allowed.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Cc Senator Linda Evans Parlette Representative Mike Armstrong Representative Cary Condotta
Congressmen Doc Hastings

3 ---> • The Land Protection Plan must state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

4 ---> • The NPS should continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.

5 ---> • Change all "acquisition" priorities to read "exchange" priorities. See section 5.2. LPP.

6 ---> • Separate the SRCIP from the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.

7 ---> • If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river, "Let the River Decide" which pieces are most threatened and need prioritized, and trade only those vulnerable lands. Priority lists would be only for trading purposes. Land trades should be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their original piece with all property rights intact. Value is defined not only by dollar amount but also by potential uses of the original property.

8 ---> • Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, to harm the road if allowed to erode.

9 ---> • Remove appendix C ' the Overlay District - from the plan.

10 --> • Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation. Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02/10/2011 02:08 AM GMT
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: The Stehekin Valley Plans

To National Park Service
Superintendent Chip Jenkins

Stehekin valley plans

I am writing in support of the Stehekin community. I lived and worked there for about forty years, from the mid 50's to the mid 90's. I have seen many disturbing changes at that time, from a self supporting community to one almost eliminated by government take over.

Being the U. S. Forest service employee stationed at Stehekin, I was detailed to work with senior National Park service personnel who came in to survey the valley prior to establishing the North Cascades National Park complex. The same people who had been involved in establishing other NPS areas. I was told specifically that the N.P.S. would acquire all private property. That the private community would resist, complain and do as much as they could to prevent this, But that the N.P.S. Would, when the community resisted, bring in new personnel, who would be conciliatory until things quieted down. Then another change of personnel, who would be pro purchase, ect. To force out private people, that this cycle would repeat over and over until they reached their goal.

With this back ground in mind, it is necessary for the NPS to write into policy those things that will ensure the continued existence of a private community. There are many issues that need to be addressed.

Investigate the effects of continued land acquisition.
Put a moratorium on land acquisition.
Honor current land trade activities, with no lose of the private land base.
Maintain the valley road in or near the present location to provide access to private property.
Land protection must support a continuing and viable private community.

A private community can better serve and provide for the visiting public, at their expense, rather than rotating outsiders who have no connection to, or real knowledge of the area, who are supported by tax money. All plans, road, river, land acquisition and any others need to take in the needs of and the continued existence of the private community.

The park Service has done a lot of good things and has a lot of good points in their plans, but there is no assurance of maintaining a private community. Once the land base drops to low, the private community cannot survive.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02/10/2011 10:42 AM MST
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: NPS draft Land Protection (LPP) and Stehekin River Corridor Implementation (SRCIP)

I wish to add my support the the plan proposed by Stehekin Heritage, Ron Scutt, President. Below is a link to the 11 point plan this committee wishes to see implemented.

[REDACTED]

http://www.stehekinheritage.com/11points-to-support_329.html

11-Points to Support

We believe that supporting these planning objectives and management policies will sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community, as well as improve visitor services.

Eleven points that Stehekin Heritage supports:
Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement -(revised 2/7/11)
Draft LPP and SRCIP

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities. See section 5.2
6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.
8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.
9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

The items included in this Summary Statement are presented with the intention to support management policies that sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community.

StehekinHeritage.com | stehekinheritage1@gmail.com

[REDACTED]
02/10/2011 10:45 AM

To NOCA_Superintendent@nps.gov

cc: [REDACTED]

Subject Stehekin Land Protection Plan, and Road Corridor Plan

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

Thank you for the notification and request for input on the land protection plan. It was a pleasure to again hear that there is an ongoing effort to live by the 1995 general management plan and its directive to open the road to Cottonwood. This effort is the highest priority for our 4 generation family. We reside in Stehekin about 25% of the year and have for the last 12 years.

We fully agree with the Assessment that you should have from Stehekin Heritage.

Additionally, we would request that members of the valley community be involved in locating those lands that would be available for trade. It would appear that all the land that was in private ownership when the area was transferred to the NPS in 1968 totaling some 1203 acres should be reviewed for that purpose.

It would also appear reasonable that other lands within the valley should also be considered for trade where their situation allows significant benefit for protection from the river threat.

In the EIS we find no input as to the value of private ownership of land in the valley. We would submit that there is significant value for taxation, commerce and Accommodations for visitors to the park.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
for the entire [REDACTED] Family

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02/10/2011 09:33 AM PST
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: Stehekin community survival

Dear Chip, Thank you for including the public in planning efforts for the future of the Stehekin community. I have lived in the Stehekin valley since 1983 and I can't imagine living anywhere else. I talk to many guests to the valley and they are all intrigued with the community and our way of life. They want to see how people live in a remote community. The idea of making a NPS complex is not a good idea, the park employees need to be integrated into the community like they are now. The housing needs to be maintained and protected from the river. In this economy the NPS needs to be thinking of every way possible to save the taxpayers money. I can't see how they would even dare think of spending millions of dollars on a new complex when our nation is bankrupt. People in NPS management positions should be rewarded for saving and cutting expenses, not more spending. I fully support the recommendations of Stehekin Heritage. I hope you will take these recommendations to heart and make a plan that will allow a private community to exist, not just a gov't community. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02/10/2011 09:56 AM PST
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: SCRIP/LPP/Comment

Superintendent Palmer Jenkins February 10, 2011
National Park Service Complex
North Cascades National Park
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284-1239

SUBJECT: Response to SCRIP/ LPP/August 2010

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,
(Please indulge me a wee bit of editorial license at the onset.)

The introduction of the two draft plans to the psyche of the Stehekin community garners up the image in my mind of a preposterous UFO spreading itself over the valley....blocking the sun. Then at the January 10th meeting in Stehekin a glimmer of sunlight revealed itself. This sliver of light has been broadened by the supportive comments of our Chelan County officials over the past few weeks.

The sunlight that shines on the valley will continue to brighten as our community works in concert with Chelan County representatives and the National Park Service in developing the appropriate infrastructure from which to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis. The study will address, along with other issues, the future impact of diminishing the current private land base value on the health and prosperity of the Stehekin community.

I believe this study has the potential to place the NPS and the Stehekin Community and the Chelan County commissioners on the same page. From this common position we can tackle the subjects of river management and future land trades with a more culturally sensitive as well as economically responsible approach to the future.

As a member of the Stehekin Heritage's sub committee, it will not come as a surprise to you that I wish to highlight the following key points that are the backbone of Stehekin Heritage's response. These points of high concern have been stimulated by the necessity to address the two current draft-planning documents. The Stehekin community is at a crossroad in terms of grappling with the important realities of economics and culture that will be impacting our future. It is in this spirit of developing a common language between the community and the NPS, that I send the following points for your consideration. These points address the crucial survival needs of the Stehekin community and its importance as it relates to current and future NPS management direction.

The tenets expressed by the following Stehekin Heritage document are of deep concern to me and are agreed upon and supported by my review of the two draft planning documents.

Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement –
Draft LPP and SRCIP

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the

Stehekin Community.

2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
- .
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities. See section 5.2
6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.
8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.
9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.
10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.
11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in it original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

The items included in this Summary Statement are presented with the intention to support management policies that sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community.

Thank you for the time you take in digesting this letter along with the multitude of others "on your desk." I look forward to working with you as we tackle the challenges ahead for the Stehekin Valley.

Sincerely submitted,

██████████
██████████

To: <Chip_jenkins@nps.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/10/2011 10:12PM

cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Stehekin Land Acquisition

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

Attached is a letter from our family in strong opposition to additional land acquisition in the Stehekin Valley. We great oppose the use of public dollars to purchase private land. We have detailed our opposition to the NPS efforts in our letter. We feel extremely strongly on this issue and will continue to voice our concern with NPS plans that disrupt or impede private land interests. Thank you for reading our letter.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

February 6, 2011

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

Our family is strongly opposed to the National Park Service continued land acquisition in the Stehekin Valley. We do not support the use of public tax dollars to purchase additional land and greatly reject the use of public funds to purchase private property in the area. Please add our voice to the many citizens who are in fierce opposition to the NPS plans to obtain additional property in the Stehekin Valley.

Our family has vacationed in the Stehekin Valley for the several decades and we enjoy and appreciate our ability to use private business services, i.e., lodging, transportation, food service and guided trips. We fear the Stehekin Valley will become the domain of the NPS. We do not support this as public tax payers and object to the use of our tax dollars to reduce private property.

The concept of "trading land" for flood "impacted" areas deserves strong consideration, but only if it is determined to be land of equal value and does not disrupt the economic vitality of the Valley residents. Simplify the criteria used to determine whether property is desirable for exchange is warranted.

We fully support the Stehekin Heritage request for a socioeconomic investigation evaluating the NPS Plan on Stehekin's economic future and a moratorium on land acquisition until the investigation is complete.

We appreciate your attention to our strong opposition to additional purchases of private property in the Stehekin Valley.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: <chip_jenkins@nps.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/09/2011 09:58PM

Subject: river management plan

chip; as a current resident and 35 year property owner, i fully support the recommendations presented to you by the stehekin heritage for the draft llp and scrip. i am pleased with the care and depth that has been put into the planning process and in general support the main proposals and objectives presented for stehekin river management, land trades, and visitor access and use development. however, i feel that the llp would be better served by the recommended clarifications the stehekin heritage has put forth. i especially favor maintaining the valley road in its present location in the mcgregor meadows area. a new road would have as many maintenance problems and if the present road is to be maintained in any case, it seems superfluous to have two roads with many of the same problems. i also feel strongly that a clearly worded nps position statement as a management goal should be included defining nps recognition and continued support of the value of the private community, its lifestyle and activities as a resource for visitor experience and enjoyment. and i think a moratorium on private land purchases is a good idea until a socio-economic impact study can be completed. more nps property available for lands trades needs to be identified. a common goal should be to keep the present land base acreage intact as much as possible. once the suggested socio-economic study is completed and analyzed for future management policies, i will continue support of nps acquisitions on a willing seller willing buyer basis. thank you for your consideration of my brief comments and request they may be made part of the record. you have my trust that you and your planners have what's best for the nps, stehekin community and visitors in your vision and that your management plan will further continued access and enjoyment of this unique valley by all. sincerely, [REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 02/10/2011 10:52 PM PST

To: Chip Jenkins

Subject: Our concern for Stehekin

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am writing because my husband and I visit Stehekin every year and it holds a special place in our hearts. I recently became aware of some of the issues that threaten the community living in Stehekin, so I thought it might help to write and let you know that for us, having a vibrant mountain community has been one of the charms of visiting Stehekin. I sure hope you do everything in your power to ensure that private property in Stehekin is protected so that this community of people will be able to thrive. I firmly believe that this will help Stehekin tourism in the future.

Additionally, my husband [REDACTED] and I agree with and support Stehekin Heritages position regarding the LPP and SRCIP documents as well.

Thank you for considering my concern.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 02/10/2011 10:49 PM PST

To: Chip Jenkins; Parlette.Linda@leg.wa.gov; Armstrong.Mike@leg.wa.gov; Condotta.Cary@leg.wa.gov

Subject: Stehekin Draft LPP and 'SRCIP

Superintendent Jenkins,

I have had long term friendships, and immediate family members living and working in the Stehekin valley.

It is a very unique valley and many of the residents there have worked very hard to carve out a place to live, work,

and call home. They have made the American Dream become a reality, a place that they call home.

With N.P.S. Draft LPP and SRCIP proposals their AMERICAN FREEDOM is in jeopardy of coming to an end.

The question must be asked, WHY, WHY, WHY? Why is government wanting to destroy this community and

take away what is rightfully theirs.

In my opinion the private sector in Stehekin, is what makes this valley flourish.

Superintendent Jenkins, why don't you put on a pair of the residents shoes and walk a mile in them, then read your draft proposals from the other side of the fence. I am positive you would not like what you read.

When is enough, enough? The government has already taken 75% of the private land in the valley, and are now proposing to steal the remaining 25% from the residents.

I support the Stehekin Heritage Summary Statement to your Draft LPP and SRCIP, which I am sure you have read so I will not reiterate the 11 points of it to you at this time.

My personal heritage is Native American. The government devastated my people and stole their property.

In my opinion, your draft LPP and SRCIP is proposing to do the very same thing to the Stehekin Community.

The crux of the matter is this: MARK 12-31, And the second (commandment) is like, namely this, Thou shalt

love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. The Stehekin private

sector is your neighbour.

Superintendent Jenkins, please review your Drafts, and alter them so that they will be in harmony with all the

people in the Stehekin Community. Do unto others, what you would want them to do unto you.

Thank you for your time, and consideration.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 02/10/2011 08:04AM
Subject: Stehekin Community

Mr. Jenkins, my name is [REDACTED]. I live in Edgar, Wisconsin. I've visited Stehekin several times and enjoyed myself each time. I've particularly enjoyed talking to the Stehekin residents and learning about the history of this great valley.

I've received several notes with information about the NPS Land Protection and Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plans. I'm concerned that the plans as written will drastically change Stehekin. I would hate to see that happen.

I know that the residents have a list of recommendations and as an occasional visitor, I am not prepared to comment on all of them. I am familiar with two of them and would like to add my backing.

The first is the land trade activity. I strongly support this effort. I have talked to several residents who have had land taken by the river and providing them with equal valued parcels out of the river's way seems to me a fair and excellent idea. It would allow the residents to continue to live and work in the valley, and support the continuation of the Stehekin community.

The second is the land acquisition plan. To me, this would bring an end to Stehekin as we know it. I feel this should be dropped from any plan going forward. Turning additional Stehekin land from privately to publicly owned would have a devastating impact on the population. I strongly support dropping the land acquisition strategy from the plan, or as the residents recommend, changing it to an exchange strategy.

Thanks for your time.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02/10/2011 09:00 PM PST
To: Chip Jenkins
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Response to Draft LPP and SRCIP

Mr Jenkins,
I'm forwarding this letter on behalf of my family who lives in Wenatchee WA and has close ties to the Stehekin Valley and it's residents.
Thank you for your help and thoughtful assistance.
[REDACTED]

National Park Service
Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Re: Response to Draft LPP and SRCIP

Mr. Jenkins,
Our daughter, her husband, and their two daughters have lived in the Stehekin Valley for much of their lives. My husband and I would be most appreciative of your efforts to keep the community alive, and of your willingness to listen to the requests and opinions of the many residents. I also think every guest that visits the valley will also be a beneficiary of your consideration to protect and nurture the future of the Stehekin Community."
Would you please consider the following points on behalf of those residents and all of us who enjoy the Stehekin Valley.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
5. Change the acquisition priorities to exchange priorities. See section 5.2

6. It is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.

8. As quickly as possible, identify the actions that are proposed for actual river management and put those elements of the planning effort into effect as soon as possible. Then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP.

9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location.

10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

The items included in this Summary Statement are presented with the intention to support management policies that sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community.

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To: <Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov>
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 02/09/2011 10:32PM
cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ongoing Support for the Community of Stehekin

Chip,

Good evening and we hope all is well. I wanted to make sure that I took a quick minute to convey to you our support for promoting the community of Stehekin and what it stands for. More importantly how strong we feel about Stehekin and the life blood of that valley which are the local landowners, both permanent and part time. Over the years I have had the privilege of growing up in Stehekin as a kid, working there in the summer, visiting, and again this past year living there with my family. Each of those experiences were unique and special. Each one had a very common backbone and that was the community there. They influenced, supported and stood for what the valley was about.

My perception of the current plan after reading through it is that it does not support the community of Stehekin entirely the way that it should. Any action plan that intends to do anything other than promote and enhance the community of Stehekin is something that will have a long term degrading affect over time. This in turn will degrade the visitor experience and ultimately in the end create something that will resemble other national parks we see today. A wondrous spectacle that is centered around beauty and nature and that is all. For some that do not know better I am sure that is enough, however we all know that a living, thriving community knitted into the natural beauty is what makes folks come back each year.

I am most concerned about two things.

- 1) Continued land acquisition decays Stehekin's ability to build the community.
- 2) Big projects that are not clearly focusing on both the good of the community and the visitor experience under one umbrella may detract from the overall uniqueness of the valley.

Overall our family has been part of Stehekin for over 40 years and I plan to bring my kids there year after year. I guess I am selfish but I want them to be able to have some of what I had. Working hard to preserve the community of Stehekin and what it stands for will insure my family has a very unique place to call home for years to come.

Thanks Chip

Best regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02/10/2011 09:33 PM PST
To: Chip Jenkins
Subject: Stehekin LPP and River Plan

N.C. National Park Service
Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

The NPS is proposing a policy of "land protection" that involves land exchanges and purchases from willing sellers. Criteria developed for the LLP, establishes a point system for land acquisition priorities. Questions have arisen when looking at the scores for listed parcels. This whole area of the plan needs more discussion. Alternative 4 scoring is preferable to all others because it reflects a more moderate effort toward removing access and development in the Stehekin River Migration Zone (CMZ), but still needs more discussion outside the group who developed this idea for scoring parcels. The points made by Stehekin Heritage Organization reflect the need to continue the conversation with the business owners and private land owners who live and work in this valley. With them we agree future community habitat requires more attention in any planning process for lands in the LCNRA and private holdings in the Stehekin River Valley.

Outlining a 1000 year CMZ is interesting as a first criterion for land acquisition priorities, but for present planning purposes, please narrow the the time of observation to first mappings of the river, looking at subsequent mappings, during the last 100 years, again at mappings from 1968 on, to the present. This shorter span may give a more reasonable picture of the speed of what happens over many generations. How much does the river migrate in 100 years and why?

The 1000 year migration zone is too broad, We find the goal of alternative 2 repressive in setting priorities on removing private land and structures from within the 1000 year CMZ (p.56 LPP). Our experience of flooding, is brief, sometimes intense, short lived floods in spring and fall. Readjustment and repair is usually quick. The overlays of channels from most recent floods, shows the river migrating back and forth in the same basic channel, not very greatly changed after flood waters subsided (noting area around Buckner Hayfield fig II-16, (1988-2009).

The legislation enacted in 1968 establishing the Lake Chelan

National Recreation Area (LCNRA) was, as we understand it, to include the preservation of the Stehekin community and small businesses operating in the region between the Boat Landing and approximately 10-miles up-valley along the Stehekin River to enhance the tourist-visitor experience.

When this legislation passed, around 1800-acres of land was held in private ownership. Over the past 40-plus years, the NPS has purchased all but about 400-acres (+/-) from "willing sellers". The question, now, is how much private land is needed to sustain continuity of community life and private businesses.

The population, as mentioned in the LPP has increased since the NPS presence began in 1968. Full time and summer residents, local businesses and social interaction, give character and structure to the visitors' experience. This is beyond the values of natural and scenic resources and touches on family and community.

The NPS could view a community of individuals and families as an asset to overall social well being for both their employees and others living together in the river valley. Setting aside an adequate number of acres beyond those presently held for exchange, could enhance the perception of NPS's willingness to show in 'policy and action', its respect for community values.

Do we need a CPP (Community Protection Plan)? An unbiased and well researched socio/economic study should be made to determine what is the minimum land-base/population required to maintain a vibrant community.

Until this important question can be answered, it seems reasonable to fix the minimum private landowner acreage to the present 400 acres. Maintaining this number (+/-) yet allowing the NPS to purchase those willing-seller parcels they deem most important to acquire, should be allowed to continue provided they sell-back an equal amount of land for private purchase (first offered to heirs of/or previous land-owners who may possibly have sold their property to the NPS under perceived 'duress'.)

We hope the NPS will continue the current land trade exchanges while keeping in mind the need to maintain the 400-acre minimum discussed above. This sort of land management could maintain a healthy community level that will support private businesses and the tourists visiting the LCNRA environs.

The proposed Stehekin River Corridor Plan with its four possible alternatives have consequences potentially destructive to private

land ownership. If the road between the Stehekin Landing and High-Bridge is moved from the valley floor (in places where the river is washing it away) to higher ground, land along the abandoned road-bed will be threatened by the river and not easily protected by private landowners. Some of us have walked along the proposed bypass road beginning at or near the Sherer/Vavrek property and found it to be a delightful and scenic route. Maintaining this proposed route through all four seasons of the year will be problematic at best. Some problems we envision are:

- Serious snow avalanches
- Periodic rock/mud-flows (witness Wilson and Hazzard Creeks)
- Serious accidents due to sliding on very steep icy hills during Winter
- High-speed bicycle/auto/bus accidents (many bicycle riders LOVE speed!)
- Compromised passage between NPS BAB's and other traffic (BAB's ==> Big-Assed-Busses)

From a long-term private-community point-of-view, we believe maintaining the existing Stehekin Valley Road between the Landing and 9 mile is the best way to protect private property and the road. Elevating the road-bed and bank hardening in places where needed to preserve the road is our preferred solution to protecting the road and private property. Alternative 4 is preferred with most developments remaining in the flood plain at McGregor Meadows.

Excessive numbers of woody-debris log-jams that accumulate in the river channel need to be reduced. These log-jams back-up water, cause the river to jump-channels and bring even more woody-debris into the river. The jams should be _continually_ selectively managed to minimize river channel-jumping that endangers roads along with Private and Public property up to Bullion Campground . Woody-debris should be an on-going permanently permitted policy. This should allow for more debris removal than just the tops of log jams, going beyond what is allowed in Alternative 4.

Park Housing and "Maintenance Yard" (M-Y) issues should be separated. Moving the 'M-Y' to higher ground is probably a good Idea although it may be possible for it to remain as now located if the Harlequin Bridge situation was modified to accommodate higher flood volumes.

At present, the Height/width ratio of the bridge does not support high flow rates (volumes) and the river is forced to jump-channel and flow through the woods between the present housing serving the NPS Fitzpatrick family and the 'M-Y' (and

private home of the Miles family too).

Regardless of what is done to the Harlequin Bridge and the M-Y, clustering housing above or alongside the Airstrip seem costly and unnecessary if housing can be situated throughout the community. Why not continue with existing housing and improve the 'YAC Yard' for seasonal employees? The inexpensive Yurt idea makes sense as seasonal Summer housing - rustic opportunities for more transient employees of the concession and park. Separating full time employees into a park housing complex runs counter to community life.

Clustering of NPS personnel could result in:

- Destroying the very idea of community
- NPS portable radios are not distributed throughout the valley
- Not enough distributed 'eyes' on potential problems - fire/flood
- Slower response time to problem areas
- Personnel isolated on wrong side of river during floods and fires
- 'Us and They' mentality develops between NPS and private community
- Unwarranted complaints about aircraft noise and efforts to close it

With some reservations, we can support draft-Alternative #4. It seems preferable but we wish it would include the ideas presented above.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/10/2011 08:46AM

Subject: Protection plans

Hi Chip!

I'm spending the Winter here in Macedonia . A tremendous amount of history here. Have to count my blessings that I'm still a U.S. Citizen. Please don't take my response to your Protection Plans personally. Best Regards, [REDACTED]

February 10, 2011

National Park Service
Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Sir:

Once again the community of Stehekin finds itself defending themselves from the encroachment of the National Park Service under the guise of "Protection". And I surmise, this smokescreen will be used until the NPS has taken all the private land in the Stehekin Valley. What I would like to know is: What has happened to the greatest document of protection ever written by man? The Constitution of the United States.

Show me anywhere in this contract made between "We the People" and the newly established National Government where the National Government is allowed to own any land other than for forts, ship yards, court houses, etc. ...and only then if the National Government pays for the land to the State in which these purchases are located. Slowly over time the central government has grown like a cancer over the states and over the people. This latest "Protection" plan by the NPS is just another step on the road to totalitarianism. Lake Chelan Recreation Area should be under the ownership of the State of Washington. And, of course, The North Cascades Park also.

Please don't take my opening paragraph personally . I realize that your administration's personnel are merely carrying out mandates handed out by another level of bureaucracy . And like good soldiers you follow orders. I'm actually pleased with the NPS folks that I have met here in the Stehekin community. Including yourself. Most of them have fitted in with the local natives and have enjoyed the area well enough that some have purchased land for their own use.

I completely support the Stehekin Heritage Committee and their hard work in trying to keep our lands. Recently I received word that one of my grand nephews is being reassigned for his forth tour of duty to Iraq. I find it very repugnant that he is being sent to secure freedom for people he doesn't even know and most likely won't even appreciate his sacrifice and at the same time here in the State of Washington his own National Government is planning to take land from it's own people. Taking it by open aggression? No! Taking it under the guise of "Protection". If I remember correctly the State of Washington did not give up its "Rights" when Stehekin was enclosed by the boundaries of the Lake Chelan Recreation Area. In fact , the Recreation Area was formed to preserve the community of Stehekin. We were given several

promises by the NPS during the hearings before the final bill was passed and one of those promises was that "no land would be purchased or taken from the private land owners unless it was used in an incompatible way". And then "incompatible" was defined. Also I recall that when Mr. Evans asked the Secretary of Interior about land purchases the Secretary said he "would not purchase private land even if it was offered".And then the bill was passed.

Shortly thereafter the NPS "hit" team arrived with their "Master Plans" and several folks were told that their properties were needed and if they wouldn't sell outright the NPS would condemn their property and take it through the courts. These people had trust in their government so instead of questioning or resisting they sold. So this brings up the question of what hearings are for. According to my law dictionary "hearings" establish the Intent of the Law and the Intent of the Law is the Law! So when I brought this matter up with Lowell White and later with Keith Miller; both former Superintendents of the NPS at Stehekin they informed me that the NPS had it's own "POLICIES" and the policies would rule. And so it is today...

As I read over the "Protection" plans I can't help but wonder just how much longer the American people will remain asleep. The Lake Chelan Recreation Area is just one small part of the National Government. Multiply what is happening to us here by what has happened and is happening all over America and Freedom will soon be spelled with a small letter f....but , of course we all know our Government is really just protecting us from ourselves....

So in conclusion relative to the Protection plans let me say this:

1. Let the Americans living in Stehekin sit down with the County Commissioners and work out what needs to be done to the river in keeping it in it's banks. Perhaps burning out the log jams like they did in the past would be a big help.
2. Use local materials. Rocks! And repair the road and protect it from erosion. And that includes all the way to Cottonwood.
3. If the property owner feels he is in danger of being washed out then let him go to the NPS and see if there can be a swap of equal value.
4. SELL BACK ALL LAND THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE NPS. This would include the Golden West Lodge, the landing area Restaurant ,Swiss Mont Lodge and cabins etc. Stehekin isn't unique because the NPS is there. It is unique because of the community its self. This community took care of the visitors for nearly 70 years before the NPS arrived and I'm positive they can do so for as long as the people are free to make their own decisions for their lives. The American way!

Sincerely,

██████████

To: "Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov" <Chip_Jenkins@NPS.gov>

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 02/10/2011 05:17PM

cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Stehekin

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

I would like to take this opportunity to express to you how much we love Stehekin – the beauty of its creation, the ruggedness, the people, the valley, and the independence of the whole community. It is a precious and unique treasure in our WA State and in the United States. We have been vacationing there with our family and friends for many, many years. We have traveled all over the US and there's no place like Stehekin!

Please thoughtfully consider the requests of Stehekin Heritage. A lot of careful thought has gone into these 11 summary points:

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley .
3. We hope the NPS will continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
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4. If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river (a goal we support) then the amount of land identified for trade purposes must be increased considerably.
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7. Remove appendix C - the Overlay District - from this plan.
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9. Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location .
10. Remove the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2

Superintendent Palmer Jenkins
North Cascades National Park
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284

September 19, 2010

In reply to L76 .

Dear Chip,

Thank you for your recent (Sept.3 2010) written response to our letter dated May 27, 2009 regarding our request to extend the proposed road reroute around our property.

We are glad to have your written response and hope that our reply will help you to better understand our request.

As you know we have been asking NPS to move the road off our property since 1990 and we would like to recap the reasons for that request before responding to your reasons for not including this as part of the proposed reroute.

First of all, there is no Chelan County record of road access to our property either thru conveyance or condemnation. Since Chelan County had no interest in our property they had no right to transfer any interest to the U.S.A. via the Quit Claim Deed that transferred ownership of the road from Chelan County to the U.S.A.

We are including a copy of Chelan County property maps of Sections 15 and 16 that our property is located in, please note that our property is shaded in yellow. As the map clearly shows, the main Stehekin Valley Road was intended to be some 200' north and west of property corner number 10 .

However it is now located on our property and heads NW between our corners 10 and 11. The road travels about 467' on our property.

In 1914, or 1948, or 1978 this was not a big deal, but starting in the late 1980's and early 90's the use of the road changed dramatically. There has been a huge increase in commercial traffic that NPS has encouraged and permitted. This includes busses that hold 30-40 passengers , 8-12 busses per day , a bicycle rental business that with a van and truck transports bikes and people up the road, Stehekin Valley Ranch traffic which includes vehicles for their guests to use , ranch employee traffic, ranch business traffic , customers going to and from the ranch, rental cars from North Cascades Stehekin Lodge, rental cars from various rental cabins in the valley and a tour truck operated by the Tour Boat business

Also there has been a **huge** increase in NPS traffic, including cars, vans, trucks and heavy equipment.

equipment so close to the river spread over a two year construction period will impact the riparian habitat much more than it would if the road was moved to the northeast.

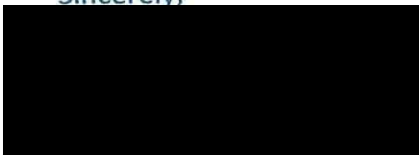
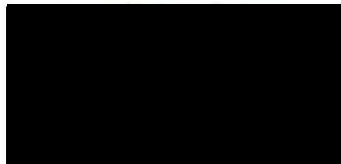
The two year road construction and paving work will have an enormous impact on us and our property and the river corridor here. As planned we won't reap any benefits but will bear the brunt of the impacts as the equipment travels back and forth continuously. Noise, dust and unsafe road conditions will be constant during construction. After construction unless a couple speed humps are installed, the road thru our property will be even more dangerous to us and the public than it is now.

During this year's Rainbow Bridge Fire it came to our attention that NPS was using the road corridor as a last resort, worst case fire break. NPS has never treated with forest fuel reduction from Wilson Creek to the Leader property which includes NPS land that borders us. We have asked repeatedly for this area to be treated. If the road was moved off our property to the northeast we would at least have that as a potential firebreak. We have worked on our own property to reduce fuels for fire and the local fire district has come on our property several times to help us with fuel reduction. We still have a long way to go but it is discouraging to have NPS land adjacent to us that is full of mistletoe, blowdowns and heavy fuels.

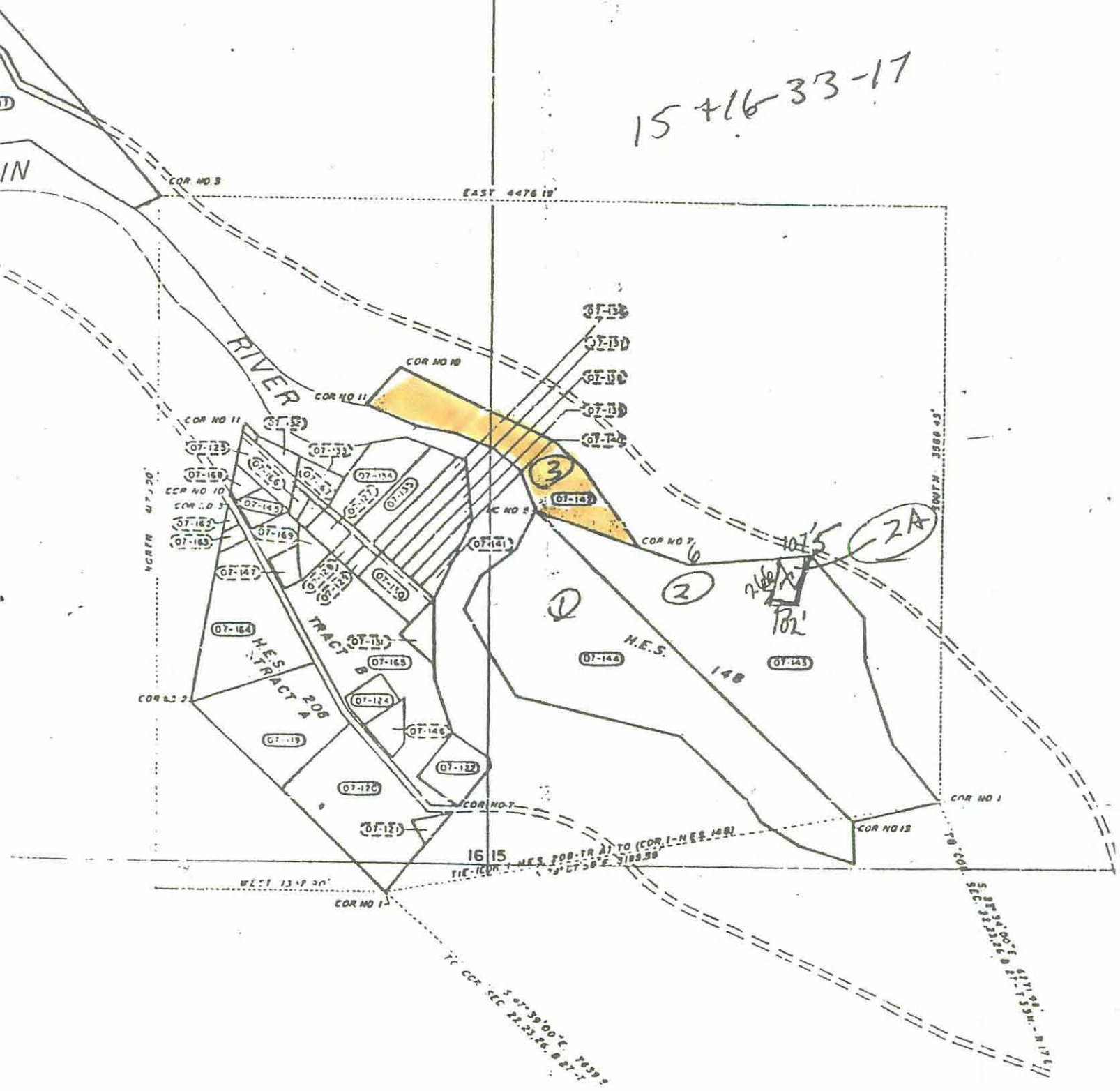
The additional cost to extend this reroute .2 of a mile would be minimal compared to the cost of the whole Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan and we believe it would also be minimal compared to the proposed reroute and paving cost.

We would be pleased to meet with you onsite and walk what we are requesting to be added to the proposed reroute.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A black rectangular redaction box covering the contact information area.

15 + 16 - 33 - 17



Superintendent Palmer Jenkins
North Cascades National Park
810 State Rt. 20
Sedro-Woolley Washington 98284

September 22, 2010

Dear Chip,

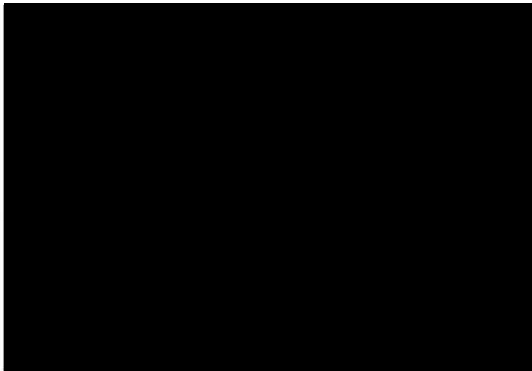
Having read some of the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Plan we see that NPS is planning to do work at and in the Wilson Creek area.

This work will be taking place partly on our property and will also have effects on our property at the work site and also downstream of the proposed work site.

At this point your office has made no attempt to begin negotiations with us, towards an agreement for NPS use of our land and the projects long term impact on this section of private property.

We are concerned that this project will lead to erosion of our property downstream from the project. Not only is the property valuable riparian and wetland habitat, it has a lot of emotional and sentimental value to us.

It is premature for NPS to be planning the work in the Wilson Creek area without talking with us and obtaining permission.



Superintendent Palmer Jenkins
North Cascades National Park
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley Washington 98284

October 3, 2010

In reply to L76

Dear Chip,

We think that extending the proposed road reroute around our property would better serve the public not only within the Stehekin River Channel Migration Zone but also in the road corridor.

If a person walks the proposed reroute what stands out is that private buildings are no longer seen or are seen from a much greater distance than on the existing road.

By extending the reroute around our place to the Bear Trap Spring vicinity this feeling of being in a National Park Area will begin near Rainbow Falls and continue to the Stehekin Valley Ranch.

Having recently walked the proposed reroute it seems even more evident that a visitor riding the shuttle bus will have the view of our buildings, vehicles, etc. interrupting an otherwise untrammelled view and experience.

Please note—the beginning of the NPS proposed road reroute is less than one tenth of a mile from our NW property line.

To address your first and second objections—

An extension of the proposed reroute around our property and connecting with the existing road near Bear Trap Spring (where the powerlines cross the river) is less than a quarter mile addition and is very easy terrain to build a road in. It is flat and open for much of the distance with some scattered trees. NPS staff that have walked thru this area agree that it is easy road building terrain.

The shortness of the extension and easy terrain would mitigate the expense of adding this part to the proposed road reroute.

It appears to us the entire NPS proposed reroute will be extensively disturbing but it is a route connecting areas most threatened by the river. Our proposed addition creates a more logical and seamless experience for the public.

We feel the reroute addition around us could be designed in a manner that would not require

the two curves you object to, for instance NW of our property the addition to the reroute could be joined in a straight line.

Finally, your objection about setting a precedent by extending the reroute southeast of our property—

This is a unique and special situation with unique and special circumstances. We are proposing a short addition to an existing project that is a major two mile reroute of the existing road.

We don't feel that anyone else could use this extension of the reroute as a precedent on a case by case basis because it is such a unique situation.

The current NPS proposed reroute avoids being on private property and goes around all the private property in the McGregor Meadows area. So on this specific project no one else would be asking to reroute the road around their property. What other situation would be similar to this that could use our request as a precedent ? **Please name specific examples.**

By extending the reroute there are great benefits to the public in the road corridor also there are many benefits to the public in the river corridor. The main benefit in the road corridor being the enriched experience of traveling on the road without the intrusion of private development. The main benefit in the river corridor to the public is enjoying the river without the intrusion of a heavily traveled road nearby.

The two year road construction and paving work will have an enormous impact on us, our property and the river corridor here. According to NPS maintenance supervisor there will be 14 dump trucks per day for 2 months just to bring the materials from the barge. Noise, dust and unsafe road conditions will be constant during the supply and will continue during construction.

There are life and safety issues that exist on our property due to the road going through and on our property. Many vehicles travel much faster than is safe both for private and public. When this stretch of road is paved the danger will increase to everyone. We feel it will imperil us even more than currently as traffic will be traveling much faster on a paved road though our property with no planned speed humps.

During the recent Rainbow Bridge fire it was evident that the road would be used as a last ditch, worst case, fire break. The NPS proposed road reroute creates a much needed firebreak for the people in McGregor Meadows area, by extending the road reroute less than a quarter mile there would also be a better firebreak for us.

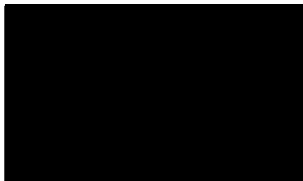
We would remind you that over the past ten years we have repeatedly requested NPS to treat the public land between Wilson Creek and the Leader property with forest fuel reduction but at this point no work has been undertaken to reduce the heavy fuel loading on public land in this area. We have been working to reduce fuel loads on our property and over the past several years have been working with Chelan County Fire District #10 to reduce the fuels here. This past spring the fire district helped us burn 21 piles. We have much more to do to reduce fire hazard on our land

but we still feel very vulnerable to fire with so much fuel loading that continues to be untreated on adjacent public land.

We found it very helpful to walk the proposed reroute last week with park staff and park staff noted that comments from the public during this walkthru were helpful.

We would suggest that you take the time to walk the proposed reroute and our proposed short extension to the reroute so that you can better understand our concerns and our request. As we stated in our letter to you, dated September 19, we would be happy to meet with you onsite, walk the proposed route and discuss this further.

Sincerely,



November 6, 2010

Superintendent
North Cascades National Park
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley , Washington 98284

Dear Chip,

Thanks for your last letter, we are glad to hear that there will be some extensive forest fuel reduction and forest thinning in the area surrounding our property. Yes, we remember the treatment done by NPS crews for defensible space within a certain distance from our buildings on NPS land , but what we have been asking for is the full on treatment for a much broader area that is our neighborhood, from Wilson Creek to McGregor Meadows, Similar to the NPS work done ~~in~~ at Company Creek , Rainbow/Boulder, Coon Run and at 7 mile. So, glad to hear that is happening soon.

We are writing to further the discussion on the work proposed at Wilson Creek by NPS. The work will require the use of our land for an access road and will have impacts on our property located there.

We would also like to further the discussion on extending the proposed road reroute two tenths of a mile so that the reroute would go around our property where our buildings and residence are located.

We feel that resolving both issues at the same time would be in the public interest, would benefit NPS and would benefit us. There are mutual needs and mutual benefits and benefits to the public.

A couple things we noticed at the public comment meeting in Stehekin at the Golden West about the new raft and kayak pull out/put in, seem to relate to our issues.

First of all we are not opposed to that location for the aquatic access.

However, it is our understanding that because of the length of time that the road has gone into ~~into~~ the River Resort , passing thru Jim Clarks property , that road would be considered a public road in the state of Washington.

The proposed plan wants to put a new road in, that would no longer pass thru Jim Clark's property which is clearly a benefit to the Clark's . It doesn't appear that the Clark's have to agree to anything else "in trade" for moving the existing road off their property.

So while it would be interesting in resolving our issues to work a trade with the Wilson Creek work using our property for access and raw materials in exchange for extending the reroute two tenths of a mile, we don't feel that this needs to be a straight trade. It almost seems as though it would be a prejudice against us, since apparently the Clark's don't have to give anything up.

Also the rock stabilizing work for the raft/kayak access will clearly benefit the River Resort in regards to flood events and river movement within the CMZ . It doesn't appear that the River Resort owners have to make any concessions to NPS for this benefit. In fact it looks like the main benefits of this raft/kayak access between Clark's and River Resort will primarily benefit private property and the rafting concession business.

In some ways the public will be shortchanged because the rafts would no longer get into the Lake Chelan/Stehekin River interface which has much birdlife for example. Just as an alternative, the NPS owned Picken property across the full pool channel from Silver Bay could be used instead and it already has a road into it.

At Wilson Creek there is the issue of the NPS use of resources (rock and trees) on site that we own. Since NPS would not have to barge materials up to build the access road and build the barbs, our resources used by NPS would be valuable. There is value to the timber and mineral resources.

Having talked with Tunnel Hill Granite and Courtney Barge, we estimate that it would cost NPS about \$50,000 for materials for the proposed barbs. This includes buying the rock, barging it uplake and multiple handling getting it to the site.

There is also an emotional and sentimental value for us with that part of our property.

If we grant NPS access will we still be allowed to extract resources as we have historically in that area and will we be able to use the NPS built access road?

The work NPS proposes at Wilson Creek may very well protect the public road but will increase erosion to our property via the 2nd culvert that will be installed and send more water across our property. The barbs themselves will contribute to erosion and threaten our property downstream and also possibly our property across the river from Wilson Creek.

Our property where the buildings are has survived two 500 year flood events in the past 7 years and numerous 100 year flood events since 1948.

What are the guarantees that after NPS does this work at Wilson Creek that it won't adversely affect our property upstream and ultimately cause the river to threaten our gardens, buildings and residence?

To throw out another thought—we understand that it is estimated to cost \$1 million per mile on the road reroute. We also estimate , based on other river work that has taken place over the years, that it will cost \$250,000 for NPS to do the work at Wilson Creek.

If the road reroute were started below Wilson Creek, adding .35 of a mile, this would also cost approximately \$250,000 . The beginning near Wilson Creek would be difficult but the stretch adjacent to us would be easy, so they would balance out.

Would NPS still have to put barbs in at Wilson Creek if the reroute were started downvalley of that location? In other words that could be a wash financially.

(Electronic copy of these comments available on request) 14

To:
Palmer (Chip) Jenkins
Superintendent
Attn: Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan DEIS
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Wooley, WA 98284-1239
<http://www.nps.gov/noca/parkmgmt/srcip.htm>

From:

11/04/10

Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan Comments

Enclosed are our comments regarding the drafts of the Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and associated documents, including the Land Protection Plan.

Before going into our comments we would like to acknowledge and thank Jon Riedel and the SRCIP team for the research, investigation, and work required to provide this detailed plan for the Stehekin valley.

Thank you for considering our comments and feel free to contact us for clarification or any additional information.

1. Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

1.1. Recreation

- (1) Trails & Foot Bridge: We totally support all the new trails in the recreation area. A continuous hiking trail from the landing all the way to High Bridge is great. We also love the proposed foot bridge across the Stehekin River near Boulder Creek.
- (2) Bike Trail: Consider making the short section of proposed trail that generally follows the current Stehekin Road from McGregor Meadows to the Lower Field a biker/hiker path and built for both uses. This would allow bikers to avoid the new section of road with it's ups & downs (and, thus, avoid conflicts with traffic) and allow bikers to do a loop using the path and the new road. (Other portions of the new hiking trails should be hiker-only, as you have proposed.)
- (3) Campsites:
 - (a) We support the proposed campsites at Rainbow Falls, improving/increasing Bullion Campground, and improving/increasing Purple Point group camping
 - (b) We support the proposal to not have a new campground on Company Creek Road. This campground is in alternatives 3 & 4 so we are voicing our support for the preferred alternative decision to not build the new campground. Our reasons are (a) CC Road is primarily residential (as noted in your documents); (b) This campground would either require a shuttle bus or walkers on CC Road; (c) CC Road will have a lot more traffic & large vehicles in the future due to the proposed large NPS facility –

so having more walkers on this road will create conflicts; (d) The location of the campground would mean campers (kids, etc.) will be gathering at or near the PUD plant and, additionally, walking up to the PUD intake, both of which have lots of tools, hazards, vehicles, etc.; (e) Campers will gather on the CC bridge where it is very easy to be surprised by traffic (because the noise of the creek and the PUD plant makes it very hard to hear cars) – this is a hazard and happens regularly even with local residents.

(c) Consider whether there is a spot for a new backcountry campsite on or near the Stehekin River Trail, perhaps near where the new hiking bridge crosses the river. Unlike the Weaver Pt. CG, this site would be primarily for hikers, not boaters. (We haven't walked the River Trail with this in mind so don't know if there is a suitable spot.)

1.2. River

We support the preferred alternative's plans for managing erosion and flood damage.

- (1) We accept the general philosophy of “Erosion Control” not “Flood Control” as presented in this plan, in order to keep the Stehekin River in its current channel and not migrate in such a way that threatens roads and homes.
- (2) We fully support all the various structures proposed, including installing more rock barbs, building more grade controls, creating/managing woody debris barriers, planting erosion-resistant vegetation, etc. In addition to those actions specified in the plan, we would support additional measures as required to maintain the river in its current channel.

1.3. New Section of Road

We support the new road re-route above McGregor Meadows.

- (1) The road re-route should start a bit lower down the valley to bypass the Scherer/Vavrek property. This will greatly improve visitor experience by providing an undeveloped route all the way from Harlequin Bridge to the Stehekin Valley Ranch. Additionally, this will avoid potential conflicts as fast downhill down-valley bikes & cars pass through the Scherer/Vavrek property.
- (2) The plan states that the NPS will provide access from the new road to McGregor Meadow residents in the case of a catastrophe (e.g. old road fails, etc.). This should be modified such that the NPS will provide access from the new road upon property owner request (i.e., they shouldn't have to wait for a catastrophe). In particular, the new road passes relatively close to several homes and those owners may choose to access their properties from the new road immediately upon construction.
- (3) There are a few places where the road still seems a bit close to the drop-off into the river zone.
- (4) There should be a small parking area at the up-valley end of the road re-route near the Lower Field. This is a likely place for recreational users to access the proposed trail (hiking, fishing, skiing, etc.).
- (5) There is one section of the proposed road that has a great view across the valley. Bikers and drivers will naturally want to stop here and enjoy the view (and, in the case of bikers, rest). The road plans should anticipate this by providing an adequate size pullout and benches. (We can provide more exact location info for this vista as needed.)

1.4. Parking

Though not technically part of this plan review, as part of the new proposed NPS facility on Company Creek Road, we recommend that you provide long-term year-round parking for resident use. The long-term lot at the landing is always very close to capacity; providing parking at the new NPS facility will help relieve congestion

at the landing. From casual inspection, it appears there should be plenty of space for parking as part of this new NPS facility.

2. Land Protection Plan

2.1. Tone, Purpose, and Intent

The Land Protection Plan should be re-written in such a way that the tone, purpose, and intent of the NPS more clearly states support for an ongoing viable Stehekin community in the Lake Chelan Recreation Area. Some people in the Stehekin community (though not us) are concerned about the true intentions of the NPS with regard to private property acquisition. We believe the NOCA representatives when they say they support an ongoing viable Stehekin community; however, we believe that this intent is not stated as clearly as it could be and the tone/terminology of the document is somewhat ambiguous and open to interpretation.

2.2. Land Acquisition Priorities

- (1) The term “Land Acquisition Priorities” is provocative and should be avoided. A term that reflects the NPS's *interest* in a property, without implying *acquisition*, would be more appropriate. Something like “Land Conservation Rating” would be more accurate.
- (2) Appendix B: The data underlying each tract's acquisition priority should be provided along with the plan. The point rating system is clearly explained but without the underlying data, it is impossible to determine why a particular property is rated as High/Medium/Low Priority for acquisition. And, with the data available for review, rating errors and issues are more likely to be found and addressed.

2.3. Land Exchange

- (1) All NPS tracts proposed for exchange should be rated according to the same priorities as privately owned tracts, and that data should be published. In addition to the priority score of the property in its current form, scores should be calculated according to various likely future land use scenarios (e.g., as if a home, shop, etc. were placed on the properties).
- (2) It sounds like some of the NPS tracts may be sub-divided. If so, NOCA should follow the same laws and guidelines for property division as the rest of the community (lot sizes, etc.) unless there are very compelling reason.
- (3) The impact on existing private homes should be considered when making tracts available for exchange. Nearby development will impact neighbors' privacy and property values.
- (4) Boulder Creek lands proposed for exchange: The plan shows some land on the SW side of the road above Boulder Creek as proposed for exchange. My understanding is that the NPS paid a lot of money to buy development rights from properties directly across the road from this land. It seems like exchanging this land contradicts and undermines the earlier purchase of those property rights.

2.4. Stehekin Character & Overlay District

- (1) General Statement Of Stehekin Character: In our view, the current character of the Stehekin community is appropriate and should be maintained. We would view drastic reduction of the private property base as a threat. We also consider over development as an equal or greater threat.
- (2) Overlay District: Given the relatively small size and number of private tracts in Stehekin and the 5-acre subdivision size in the Stehekin Growth Management Plan, NOCA should determine if existing Chelan

County ordinance provides adequate protections to maintain the character of the Stehekin community in a compatible manner with the Lake Chelan Recreation Area's goals and vision. (Stated differently, if each property was developed as allowed by Chelan County, would Stehekin's character be significantly altered?) If NOCA has done this research and determined that an Overlay District is appropriate, more rationale should be provided in the plan. (We have not formed an opinion on this issue at present.)

For example, it is possible that there are few parcels that are large enough to legally support development that is incompatible with the character of the Stehekin community. If so, those parcels should be identified and the various options should be discussed in the plan (possibly including an Overlay District, as appropriate).

[end]



November 29, 2010

Mr. Palmer "Chip" Jenkins
Superintendent, North Cascades NPS Complex
ATTN: SRCIP
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
(via e-mail)

Re: Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

Dear Superintendent Jenkins:

I am a second-generation resident in Stehekin. My father was instrumental in the creation of the North Cascades National Park Complex, and my daughter and her family will be the third and fourth generations of our family to own property and live in the Stehekin Valley. I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed National Park Service plan for the Stehekin River Corridor as described in the *Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan* and discussed by you, along with other NPS officials, at a number of public meetings during October 2010, including one I attended in Stehekin on October 19.

My opposition is to the critical policy extension embodied in the *Implementation Plan*: that the NPS will allow owners of so-called "flood plain" land to trade their flood plain properties for other Park land away from the flood plain, and designated as "available" for trade. Such trades have been made in the past, but only in clearly exceptional circumstances. To make such trades standard procedure would mark a radical—and disastrous—shift in Parks policy.

This proposed policy fundamentally contradicts the explicit purpose for which the Park was created, and its implementation would undermine the future of the North Cascades Complex and become a sinister precedent threatening every National Park.

My first reason for opposing the proposed policy is that it significantly reduces, both directly and indirectly, the amount of genuinely wild land in the Park—against the very principle of the creation of this, and every, National Park. The properties which would be traded for "flood plain" holdings are currently undeveloped, and, for the most part, at the peripheries of the Stehekin community. The "flood plain" properties are for the most part undeveloped, either because of their precarious position or because septic field approval cannot be obtained for them. If the owners of these properties are given other properties in safer positions, the greatest likelihood is that these new properties will be built upon, either by their current owners or by developers to whom the new, valuable, properties may be sold.

Thus, directly, previously undeveloped land will become developed. The amount of undeveloped land will be decreased; the amount of developed land will be increased. And the circumference of the Stehekin community will be expanded outward—when it really should be in the Park's interest and purpose to restrain any expansion of developed land. Since what constitutes the "flood plain" is itself something of a moving target, and designation of flood plain land has tended to include ever more properties, the amount of previously undeveloped land "available" for trade must also grow to match the growing flood plain, and the centrifugal expansion of the developed community is likely to accelerate, at the expense of undeveloped, wild land—which it is the explicit purpose of the Park to preserve.

This expansion of the area of the community will occasion other indirect costs and the further loss of previously undeveloped land, as detailed later in this response.

Moreover, it is to be expected that the implementation of this policy will serve as an incentive to development—quite the opposite of what the NPS should be encouraging. I am deeply worried, in fact, that public discussion of the proposed Implementation Plan has already encouraged speculation in flood plain lands. Since these lands cannot currently be developed, they can be purchased at present very cheaply. But the prospect of their being tradable for potentially desirable and valuable land could lead to their calculated acquisition for the purpose of trading up with them. I am worried that this has already occurred.

My second objection to the proposed policy concerns the criterion used to determine the "availability" of peripheral land for trades with owners of flood plain land. As explained in the *Draft . . . Implementation Plan*, land would be designated as available for trade if it was privately owned at the time the North Cascades NPS Complex was created. The policy is indefensible for two reasons. First, it ignores the historical circumstances of land ownership at the moment of the creation of the Park, and because it does, it renders the criterion irrational as a way of distinguishing one property from another. A substantial amount of privately held land at that moment remained in private hands only because the Parks Service ran out of funds with which to acquire land that its owners had actually wished to sell to the Park. That was in fact the case with land owned by my parents. They maintained their ownership of this land, but always with the intention that it would one day become Park's property.

It is that intention which points to the second, and far more significant, reason for the indefensibility of the proposed policy. The proposed policy would have an insidious effect on the future of land-ownership in the Park. Under this policy, property owners in the Park would be actively discouraged from bequeathing their park property to the Park. There are many property owners in the Stehekin Valley who are dedicated conservationists, and who would be inclined to leave their park property to the Park, assuming that the property would thereby be preserved in perpetuity in its undeveloped state by the NPS, in observance of its statutory obligations to preserve wilderness land in the Park. But since the proposed *Implementation . . . Plan* would render any privately owned land vulnerable to designation as "available" for trade and development, these potential donors to the Park would not be able to bequeath their land to the Park safely. They might be able to accomplish their purposes by bequeathing their land to a

third party conservation organization, such as the Sierra Club, but that is not quite what they originally had in mind.

It seems to me that someone who gives or sells undeveloped land to the NPS does so with the expectation that that land will be preserved in its undeveloped state in perpetuity, and not that it will be traded to someone else for development. It seems to me that donors or sellers to the Park have a right to that expectation. It also seems to me that this potential chilling effect on donations or sales to the NPS might well be replicated in any National Park if the proposed policy is used as a precedent in other parks.

Finally, let me point out that the proposed policy would have other indirect effects, difficult to quantify, but inevitable, and inevitably deleterious to the wild areas of the park. Since the properties tradable for flood plain properties will tend to be at the peripheries of the Stehekin Valley community, there will be infrastructure costs associated with the trades that will be borne by the NPS and not the individual property owners or developers. Roads will have to be cut to the developed properties; fire protection will have to be extended to them. These extensions not only imply new expenses for the NPS, they also imply the further destruction of previously undeveloped land as intervening spaces between the traded parcels are swept into the development process.

For all these reasons I oppose the *Draft . . . Plan*. While it appears balanced and well-intentioned, the inevitable effects of its implementation would be in direct contradiction of the spirit and letter of the creation of the North Cascades NPS Complex.

Sincerely,

██████████



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**
Paula J. Hammond, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

16
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December 10, 2010

Palmer Jenkins, Superintendent
North Cascades NPS Complex
ATTN: SRCIP
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

RE: Comments for Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the above DEIS document on the Stehekin River Corridor. We look forward to our continued relationship so that together we can realize the benefits of future infrastructure improvements in the community of Stehekin and the North Cascade National Park.

WSDOT Aviation has reviewed the DEIS and supporting documents and has the following comments:

1. **National Park Service Facilities Relocation:** WSDOT Aviation supports the National Park Service's (NPS) efforts to move their facilities as part of the Stehekin River Corridor relocation plan to a location on or near Stehekin State Airport. We are also prepared to provide technical assistance to the NPS that will facilitate safe airport operations and protect the airport as an essential public facility.
2. **Proposed Helicopter Landing Areas:** Currently the Stehekin Airport is used for firefighting efforts in the region. Helicopters are the main aircraft used during fire fighting staging efforts at the airport. To that end, WSDOT Aviation would like to work with NPS to accommodate helicopters at the airport and will provide technical assistance in reviewing location plans for the supporting infrastructure. One of the main issues that will need to be addressed for helicopters and other aircraft operating from the airport will be to ensure that clear approaches are available for arriving and departing aircraft.
3. **Proposed Land Exchange:** If land exchange is to remain as a selected alternative, WSDOT Aviation can review and provide recommendations on parcel selection that would benefit protection of the airport.
4. **Mitigation and Vegetation Management Options:** In the effort to minimize encumbrances on the airport and reduce risks associated with wildlife attraction at or near the airport, WSDOT Aviation can provide technical assistance on re-vegetation efforts. Our goal is to insure mitigation efforts do not adversely impact the airport influence, airspace, and safety zones.

John Sibold, Director
WSDOT Aviation

5. **Airport Runway:** The DEIS (page 221) lists the airstrip (airport runway) as "2,700 feet long and 80 feet wide", in fact the airport runway is 2,630 feet long by 100 feet wide. A specific airport legal description can be found on the recently completed airport boundary record of survey.
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11. **WSDOT Aviation Contact Update:** The DEIS (page 410) lists an outdated WSDOT Aviation contact. Please change the contact information to:

John Sibold, Director
WSDOT Aviation
18204 59th Dr NE, Suite B
Arlington, WA 98223
(360) 651-6300
(360) 651-6319 Fax
www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation

Thank you again for your comments. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the State Managed Airport Manager, Paul Wolf at Wolfp@wsdot.wa.gov or 360-651-6313

Sincerely,



John Sibold, Director
WSDOT Aviation



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**
Paula J. Hammond, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

Aviation Division
18204 95th Drive NE, Suite B
Arlington, WA 98223-8701
360-651-6300 / Fax 360-651-6319
Toll Free: 1-800-552-0666
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov

December 10, 2010

Palmer Jenkins, Superintendent
North Cascades NPS Complex
ATTN: SRCIP
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

RE: Comments for Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the above DEIS document on the Stehekin River Corridor. We look forward to our continued relationship so that together we can realize the benefits of future infrastructure improvements in the community of Stehekin and the North Cascade National Park.

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 W Yakima Ave, Ste 200 • Yakima, WA 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

December 10, 2010

Palmer Jenkins
North Cascades NPS Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Re: DEIS – Draft Stehekin River Corridor

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comments.

Water Quality

Project with Potential to Discharge Off-Site

The NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit from the Washington State Department of Ecology is required if there is a potential for stormwater discharge from a construction site with disturbed ground. This permit requires that the SEPA checklist fully disclose anticipated activities including building, road construction and utility placements. Obtaining a permit is a minimum of a 38 day process and may take up to 60 days if the original SEPA does not disclose all proposed activities.

The permit requires that Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (Erosion Sediment Control Plan) is prepared and implemented for all permitted construction sites. These control measures must be able to prevent soil from being carried into surface water (this includes storm drains) by stormwater runoff. Permit coverage and erosion control measures must be in place prior to any clearing, grading or construction.



Mr. Jenkins
December 10, 2010
Page 2

More information on the stormwater program may be found on Ecology's stormwater website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/construction/> . Please submit an application or contact Lynda Jamison at the Dept. of Ecology, (509) 575-2434, with questions about this permit.

Erosion control measures must be in place prior to any clearing, grading, or construction. These control measures must be effective to prevent soil from being carried into surface water by storm water runoff. Sand, silt, and soil will damage aquatic habitat and are considered pollutants.

Any discharge of sediment-laden runoff or other pollutants to waters of the state is in violation of Chapter 90.48, Water Pollution Control, and WAC 173-201A, Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington, and is subject to enforcement action.

Best management practices must be used to prevent any sediment, oil, gas or other pollutants from entering surface or ground water.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Water Quality comments, please contact Lynda Jamison at (509) 575-2434.

Sincerely,



Gwen Clear
Environmental Review Coordinator
Central Regional Office
(509) 575-2012



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 W Yakima Ave, Ste 200 • Yakima, WA 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

December 10, 2010

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North Cascades NPS Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

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Mr. Jenkins
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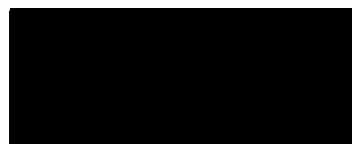
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Sincerely,



Gwen Clear
Environmental Review Coordinator
Central Regional Office
(509) 575-2012



Superintendent Palmer 'Chip' Jenkins
North Cascades NPS Complex, ATTN: SRCIP
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley
Washington, 98284

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

We have studied the documents you distributed in August regarding the Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan and the Land Protection Plan for the Lake Chelan NRA. We also attended the meeting in Stehekin on October 19, 2010, at which these documents were discussed.

Regarding the Draft Land Protection Plan for the LCNRA, we are grateful for the nuanced and seriously thought-out approach the NPS is making to address needs and concerns of Stehekin homeowners and residents.

We and other homeowners would be interested in seeing how our "priority" rankings (listed on pages 36 – 42) were arrived at--the points allotted for each of the nine criteria spelled out on pages 33 – 34. **We suggest publishing this data online for those who wish to access it.**

Our property, Tract 05-157, is in the Boulder Creek area. The newly exchangeable lots near Boulder Creek are directly across the road from our place, so we have a special interest in them. (Incidentally, all maps in this report, including "Possible Exchange Lands, Boulder Creek Area" on page 48, erroneously show our land and Tract 05-119 as publicly owned. **Such mapping errors should be corrected in any final report.**)

In 2001 the NPS paid a considerable sum of money (\$127,550, we believe) to purchase easements on our property and Tract 05-119, a small nearby lot. The stated purpose of these easements is: "to preserve the historic, rural and scenic nature and unobstructed open character of the natural landscape as it now [in 2000] exists." The easement on our place is so detailed that it requires specific styles of siding and roofing to be used on any existing or future buildings. One section begins, "The existing barn is particularly noticeable from the Stehekin Valley Road and therefore specifically limited to its existing size and style..."

For us as buyers these easements were not a deal-breaker, since we shared the underlying commitment of the NPS to "preserve the scenic value of the said land." Predictably, we were surprised and disappointed to hear at the October 19 meeting that this value is no longer a particularly significant NPS commitment.

Nevertheless, **we urge that, if only to protect investments it has already made in the scenic quality of this stretch of road, the NPS, in any future negotiations with prospective owners of the Boulder Creek lots, make every effort to retain an interest in the properties sufficient to protect this value.**

Turning to the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan, we applaud the course taken by the NPS in adopting a more long-range view of the river's location and behavior in its Channel Migration Zone. We especially admire Jon Riedel's inspired long-term work to understand the river's past and plan for its future. We support the move to eschew levees and dikes, and to manage the CMZ, insofar as possible, so that the river can spread out during floods.

In general we support Alternative 2, the "preferred" alternative in the current report, but with several reservations regarding the proposed realignment of the Stehekin Valley Road around McGregor Meadows:

First, **any plan for this reroute should spell out a NPS commitment to provide continued, year-round access to the homes in McGregor Meadows.** The McGregor Access Road—the existing road—should be plowed and maintained both for the property owners' use and for the NPS, PUD, and other agencies that must provide fire suppression, law enforcement, and other public services to that neighborhood. This explicit commitment should address arrangements that will be made in case future floods make the existing road unusable.

Second, **every effort should be made to keep the new reroute as far as possible from private homes along the road.** Having walked the proposed route, we note that in some places (for example, uphill from the Spagna, Thompson, and Duke homes) several possible new-road routes are flagged. In such places we urge that the route furthest from residences be followed, partly for the privacy of the homeowners, but mainly to enhance the experience of park visitors.

As envisioned, the new Valley Road—rerouted and paved--would go all the way from the Rainbow Falls area to the Stehekin Valley Ranch as an uninterrupted natural-area route--except for one stretch, where it would pick its way among the sawmill, gardens, parking area, and residential yard of the Scherer-Vavrek household. Apart from scenic considerations, it seems unnecessarily hazardous to have a paved public road bisecting an active year-round homestead.

Fire is always a concern in the valley, and for homeowners in and above McGregor Meadows the proposed rerouted road would be a reassuring last-ditch fire break—again, with the single exception of homeowners Scherer and Vavrek.

We urge the NPS to include in the McGregor Meadows reroute an additional fifth of a mile of road skirting the uphill side of the Scherer-Vavrek property. If so extended, the McGregor reroute would branch off the Valley Road a few yards

upriver from Wilson Creek. A walk along this possible route suggests no difficult road-building issues. In addition, the timing seems opportune, since there will be intense road work on this short stretch, not just for the McGregor reroute but also at Wilson Creek, where new barbs are to be placed in the river, a project that involves moving a section of the Valley Road and building a spur down the riverbank.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on these planning documents.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Stehekin School District No. 69

P.O. Box 37

Stehekin, WA 98852



January 5, 2011

Chip Jenkins, Superintendent
North Cascades National Park
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284-1239

Dear Chip,

The Stehekin School Board and staff have reviewed the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan, specifically the identification of the Rice property as possible land exchange in the revised Land Protection Plan. The Stehekin School District commends the National Park Service's effort to identify property that can be utilized for land trades in the Stehekin Valley. We are however concerned about the impacts that may arise if the Rice property, which is adjacent to the Stehekin School, is one of the options for exchange. Enclosed with this letter is a resolution passed by the Stehekin School Board approving the comments in this letter.

Our main concern is the accessibility to the property. As you are aware, the school is situated between the Stehekin Valley Road and the Rice property. Currently there are no access roads directly to the property. The board would like to make clear that the district has no intention of granting easement on to the Rice property across school property. The existing driveway to the school does not go back far enough to reach the Rice property and continuation of the driveway would pass very closely to the back of the school. Access across school property would create a potential safety hazard with traffic when the school is in session as well as creating noise, dust and other distractions. Students and staff would also have to cross the driveway in order to go to the out buildings including the outhouses. Accessibility on National Park Service property up-valley from the school would also pose some of the same concerns.

Our second concern has to do with a residential area being located in close proximity to the school property. There is no buffer between the school, playground and the Rice property due to the physical characteristics of the land as well as being adjacent to the school property. This would potentially create distractions and interactions between property owners and students during school hours. The district would prefer to limit activity near the school that would distract students from school activities. Furthermore, if a private residence were placed in such close proximity to the school, the students would no longer have access to areas that have been used for play, recreation and exploration. The Stehekin School District would like to avoid such impacts.

Thirdly, the school district is in the process of identifying possible sites for teacher housing. Once a site has been determined, the district will seek voter approval by the registered voters in the Stehekin School District as required by state law. The district has considered various options including renting from private land owners, purchasing existing housing or property, and building on the current Stehekin School property. After reviewing the pros and cons of each option such as availability and expense of private property, the preferred alternative currently is to build on the existing property

While we don't support the Rice property as a building site for a private residence for the reasons listed earlier, the property would be an ideal location for teacher housing. In the event that the district would not be able to build teacher housing on the existing school property, another option the district would like to consider is the Rice Property. First of all, the issue and impacts of accessibility to the property if it was privately owned would not be a concern. The teacher would be able to limit the accessibility during the school hours. Secondly, the relative closeness to the current school property would be financially beneficial and efficient in dealing with maintenance and staffing issues. Lastly, in order for the school district to attract future teachers to the position, it is necessary for the district to provide housing since available housing for individuals or families to rent or purchase is limited in the Stehekin community.

If the Rice property becomes a possible option with the National Park Service, the school district would prefer to purchase the property rather than do a land exchange - similar to how the school district acquired the current property from the National Park Service in the 1980's as allowed under the Land and Water Conservation Act. Of course, this too would have to be approved by the voters.

The Stehekin School District would like to recommend that the Rice Property be identified in the Revised Land Protection Plan as a potential parcel for the Stehekin School District to use if the need arises for school purposes such as teacher housing as allowed under Washington State laws and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Renée Hudak".

Renée Hudak, Board President
Stehekin School District
PO Box 37
Stehekin, WA 98852

Stehekin School District No. 69
Resolution No. 2010-03
Pertaining to approval of comments in regards to
the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan

Whereas, the Stehekin School Board and staff have reviewed the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan, specifically the identification of the Rice property as possible land exchange in the revised Land Protection Plan;

Whereas, the Stehekin School District commends the National Park Service's effort to identify property that can be utilized for land trades in the Stehekin Valley;

Whereas, the Stehekin School District is concerned with possible impacts that may arise if the Rice property, which is adjacent to the Stehekin School, is one of the options for exchange;

Whereas, there is currently no access to the Rice property and access across school property would create a potential safety hazard with traffic when the school is in session as well as creating noise, dust and other distractions. Accessibility on National Park Service property up-valley from the school would also pose some of the same concerns;

Whereas, the Stehekin School District is concerned with a residential area being located in close proximity to the school property in that there are no buffers between the school, playground and the Rice property due to the physical characteristics of the land as well as being adjacent to the school property. This would potentially create distractions and interactions between property owners and students during school hours.

Whereas, the Stehekin School District would like to avoid impacts to the district and students as listed above;

Whereas, the Stehekin School District is in the process of identifying possible sites for teacher housing, with the preferred option at this time to build on the existing school property;

Whereas, in the event that building teacher housing on the existing school property is not a viable option, the district would like to consider the Rice Property as an alternative; preferably through purchase similar to how the Stehekin School District acquired the current property from the National Park Service under the Land and Water Conservation Act rather than a land exchange,

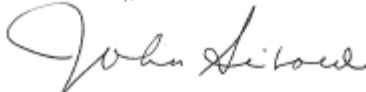
Whereas, the issues and impacts as stated above would not be a concern if the Rice property were available for teacher housing. Accessibility could be limited during school hours;

5. **Airport Runway:** The DEIS (page 221) lists the airstrip (airport runway) as "2,700 feet long and 80 feet wide", in fact the airport runway is 2,630 feet long by 100 feet wide. A specific airport legal description can be found on the recently completed airport boundary record of survey.
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www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation

Thank you again for your comments. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the State Managed Airport Manager, Paul Wolf at Wolfp@wsdot.wa.gov or 360-651-6313.

Sincerely,



John Sibold, Director
WSDOT Aviation

Whereas, the relative closeness to the current school property would be beneficial financially as well as efficient in dealing with maintenance and staffing issues;

Therefore Be It Resolved, the Board of Directors of the Stehekin School District No. 69 approves the comments sent to the North Cascades National Service on behalf of the Stehekin School District by the board president in regards to the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan.

The foregoing resolution was adopted and approved on the 18th day of November, 2010, the undersigned directors being present and voting.

Board of Directors:

Rene Courtney

Paul Dabrie

Randy

Attest: Secretary to the Board:

Jen Courtney

20

Jan 14 2011

Dear Superintendent,

Thank you for the great efforts you have made to keep the community of Stehekin actively involved in the Stehekin Corridor Implementation Plan.

Our family of six lived year round in Stehekin from 1998-2002 and have a small hut in McGregor Meadows where we spend considerable time in the summer.

We are concerned that the Park's Alternative 2 involves moving the public road away from McGregor Meadows. It is very important to us as well as others in the McGregor vicinity, that you make a firm commitment to provide continued access to McGregor Meadows despite flooding.

We want this road to McGregor to be maintained at the same level as in past years, which includes snowplowing for winter access. If access is compromised temporarily by flooding, then the road needs to receive immediate attention to reopen.

In the past we have been approached to do a land exchange and received an in-depth appraisal of our parcel. It appears now that the Park was only interested in a Buy out rather than a Firm Land exchange. This is unacceptable!

We commend you for creating new recreational opportunities in the valley, especially a

new raft take out at the river mouth since we are whitewater paddlers.

In concluding please consider that Alternative 2 will only be acceptable to those of us in the McGregor area if NPS makes a firm commitment to keeping the present road to McGregor open. On page 92, paragraph 3 line 5 should be changed to reflect this intent

... the DPS would work with private landowners to determine HOW (not 'whether') to restore access.



[REDACTED]
20 January, 2011

Mr. Palmer "Chip" Jenkins
Superintendent, North Cascades NPS Complex
ATTN: SRCIP
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Re: Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP)

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the SRCIP and the related Land Protection Plan (LPP).

I have been coming to Stehekin off and on since 1970. In the last decade, visits by my wife [REDACTED] and I have been more frequent and longer. We have come to know some of the community and place very high value on the unique environment that surrounds it. We own property adjacent to (and in) the present river course. While we are not now residents of Stehekin, we hope to make Stehekin our year-round home. We hope for the stability of the community with minimum impact on natural processes on the surroundings including the river. We appreciate the role of the NPS in contributing to that stability.

Before commenting on these plans and proposed actions, I would like to express special appreciation for the splendid work by NPS staff in developing objective information about the Lower Stehekin River Valley and its workings, for example as presented in Appendices 4, 8 and 16 and parts of Chapter III. This information provides essential foundation for the SRCIP and LPP. The value is more broad than that. The package provides important education to the Stehekin Community about the realities of the river with which it must live. I have learned a lot about the river from my reading of parts of the SRCIP (and from an on-site field trip lead by NPS personnel). I hope that you will incorporate some of this integrated information into the interpretive program of the Park. People coming to the Park are open to learning stuff, and Stehekin is a great micro example of issues arising in management of human activity in a river valley. As well, some of the mapping gives a great picture of the landscape in the valley, and how it got that way.

I view the SRCIP to be an essential and positive step with a few reservations outlined below. The stated goals (e.g. summarized on page 4 of the Executive Summary) are important. I regard the goal to protect natural processes of the river and its floodplain to be foremost. I support the selection of "floodplain utilization" as the best approach to managing the river with decisions guided by the "channel migration zone" (CMZ). In this regard, I note that the CMZ can be well defined by landforms, morphology and topography. The CMZ is both more conservative and more clear than the commonly used "floodway" and/or the "base flood elevation", which are theoretically derived from more uncertain models and statistics. I support your goal to "encourage" relocation of development now in the CMZ to beyond its boundaries. I appreciate that there are no requirements on private land

owners to relocate any existing developments in the CMZ. Otherwise would be wrong. Private land owners who are at risk now or would be with proposed new building within County/State regulations and zoning can attempt to adapt to flood risks using focused flood protection measures like current diversion, ring dikes and grade/scour control localized close to their structures (Appendix 7). I do not support heavy interference with erosion, sedimentation, large woody debris or other measures aimed at restricting the river to a prescribed channel. I can accept measures aimed to reduce risk to main public access routes and concentrations of existing development in the several identified critical locations to reduce bank erosion (rock barbs, revegetation) and to suppress headward migration of channels in the CMZ (buried grade control, artificial log jams). I support the proposed new trails, especially the connection across the river near Boulder Creek to the Stehekin River Trail, all of which will expand walking opportunities for both visitors and residents. I support the resurfacing of the currently paved portion of the Stehekin Valley Road so long as the pavement width is not increased. (I would object to plans to any proposal to increase the width of the road, which would bring a major change in character to the valley.)

My main concerns are with the LPP. It appears to be more a concept document than a specific action plan (somewhat askance to the stated SRCIP purpose of clarifying the 1995 GMP). Much of the specific discussion is described as "Land Protection Priorities" (LPP, Section 5.2) listing "potential acquisition priority". As it is presented in the context of the Preferred Alternative (2), there are more private properties given high priority for acquisition than identified in earlier lists (LPP, Section 5.2). Yet the NPS capability for acquisition through the identified methods (LPP, Section 4.5) is rather limited. It is understood that the NPS will act on the basis of willing private-land owners within the large group of high priority properties with the intent toward fair valuations and real gains for the specific goals of the SRCIP and the broader purposes of the recreation area. With the expectation that only a small number of landowners will be interested in sale or trade of their interest in their property to the NPS, I understand considerable flexibility is needed. On the other hand, in principle there could be more owners interested in selling to the NPS than can be purchased. I did not find enumeration of guidelines governing this specific aspect of the process to make it fair and optimally effective. Furthermore, the high-priority properties constitute a large proportion of all private properties, and the aspirational nature of the plan and its lack of specific bounds appears to be threatening to some in the Community.

I would also like to express some concern about land exchanges. I believe that exchanges can contribute to beneficial solutions to management of public lands. There are many positive examples in the National Forest and Park systems with mutually beneficial results for both private individuals and the public. On the other hand there are cases where ill-conceived exchanges have benefited private interests at the expense of public value. To achieve fairness is difficult, subjective and contentious, in view of a complex matrix of environmental goals, expectations of the previous private owners of public land now legally available for trade, development restrictions imposed by County zoning regulations and market value. Furthermore, negotiations between the NPS and a private landowner necessarily have a somewhat private aspect with Community awareness and potential for input at a late phase. All this leads many to justifiably reject the notion of trades altogether. I am not one, but do desire that there be very clear, explicit and enforceable covenants on NPS land returned to private ownership through trade that prevent developments compromising the purposes of the recreation area and the traditional character of the community. My concern is considered broadly in concept in "Protection Techniques" (Section 4), but I would be more comfortable if a more specific statement stood out (e.g. in Section 4.5.2 specifically about exchanges).

Some editorial comments:

The CMZ is not shown consistently on maps. An example location that I noticed, and of particular interest to my wife and me, is the terrace between the road and river upriver from Boulder Creek. Maps in the “Executive Summary” (Figures ii-2, ii-4, ii-5, ii-7, ii-9, ii-10 and possibly ii-6) show all of this terrace west of the road to be in the CMZ. Some maps in the LPP (Figures 2, 4 and 5) show most of the terrace to be outside the CMZ, while the remaining relevant map (Figure 1) shows the terrace to be fully out of the CMZ. This terrace is part of the Boulder Creek fan (e.g. Appendix 16, Fig 4B) and its surface has never been accessed by the river. Its elevation is distinctly above the flood plain to the west. LPP, Figure 1 appears closest to actuality based on the LIDAR mapping (and my knowledge of the terrain). Some of the apparent inconsistency may arise from the mapping scale, which makes it hard to see details. There are no doubt problems elsewhere, so please review maps for accuracy. In any case, somewhere there should be maps of sufficient scale that the boundaries of the CMZ are clearly and accurately defined where possible and its potential limits shown where it has not yet been defined. These maps either need to be in the final EIS or referenced in an identified location that can be accessed. This is important since the CMZ is so central to the SRCIP.

In the Executive Summary, there is a “Summary of Issues and Impact Topics Considered” (page 25 of the printed version). I noticed that Summary did not explicitly mention fish. Fish are discussed under Wildlife (Chapter 8) and Special Species (Chapter 9), and those are certainly logical places for a reader to look. Nevertheless, it would seem desirable to have explicit mention of fish in the summary, since the environmental focus is on the river. Perhaps say “wildlife including fish” in the summary.

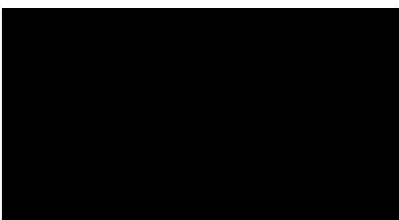
The priority of NPS interest in acquisition of private holdings is listed in tables. While many readers with specific interest will have some knowledge of the locations of the listed parcels, maps showing the acquisition priority of private property (e.g. in Appendices 11 and 12) would better display the information and its spatial relationship with regard to the guidelines on which the priorities are based as well as other environmental features of interest.

The path of Little Boulder Creek below its entry to the valley bottom is shown as the present path in some figures (e.g. relevant figures in the SRCIP Executive Summary) and as a prior path in others (e.g. relevant figures in Appendix 16) without explanation. It would be good to provide appropriate explanation (e.g. in the relevant figure captions of Appendix 16) or alternatively show it consistently in the present path on all maps.

Note a misplaced “Little Boulder Creek” label in Figure 10A of Appendix 16.

As noted above, the “Land Protection Plan” is more aspirational than prescriptive. Would it be better to call it “Land Protection Guidelines” or “Land Acquisition Guidelines”?

Please keep me informed about progress in the SRCIP and LPP.





STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
15 W Yakima Ave, Ste 200 • Yakima, WA 98903-3452 • (509) 575-2490

December 10, 2010

Palmer Jenkins
North Cascades NPS Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Re: DEIS – Draft Stehekin River Corridor

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comments.

Water Quality

Project with Potential to Discharge Off-Site

The NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit from the Washington State Department of Ecology is required if there is a potential for stormwater discharge from a construction site with disturbed ground. This permit requires that the SEPA checklist fully disclose anticipated activities including building, road construction and utility placements. Obtaining a permit is a minimum of a 38 day process and may take up to 60 days if the original SEPA does not disclose all proposed activities.

The permit requires that Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (Erosion Sediment Control Plan) is prepared and implemented for all permitted construction sites. These control measures must be able to prevent soil from being carried into surface water (this includes storm drains) by stormwater runoff. Permit coverage and erosion control measures must be in place prior to any clearing, grading or construction.



Mr. Jenkins
December 10, 2010
Page 2

More information on the stormwater program may be found on Ecology's stormwater website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/construction/> . Please submit an application or contact Lynda Jamison at the Dept. of Ecology, (509) 575-2434, with questions about this permit.

Erosion control measures must be in place prior to any clearing, grading, or construction. These control measures must be effective to prevent soil from being carried into surface water by storm water runoff. Sand, silt, and soil will damage aquatic habitat and are considered pollutants.

Any discharge of sediment-laden runoff or other pollutants to waters of the state is in violation of Chapter 90.48, Water Pollution Control, and WAC 173-201A, Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington, and is subject to enforcement action.

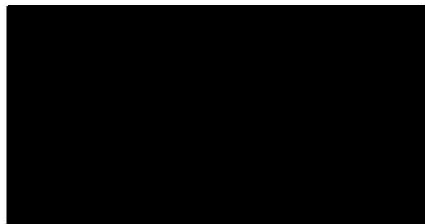
Best management practices must be used to prevent any sediment, oil, gas or other pollutants from entering surface or ground water.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Water Quality comments, please contact Lynda Jamison at (509) 575-2434.

Sincerely,



Gwen Clear
Environmental Review Coordinator
Central Regional Office
(509) 575-2012



January 31, 2011

Re: Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Draft Land Protection Plan 2010 (LPP).

Superintendent Jenkins:

As property owners in McGregor Meadows., we appreciate the beauty of the Stehekin Valley and its wonderful community and understand the risks of living near the Stehekin River. Furthermore, as property owners and part time residents we believe the National Park Service should:

- Maintain the Stehekin road at its present location adjacent to McGregor Meadows and elevate it to provide protection from seasonal flooding. The current location provides one of the straightest and widest parts of the road. Relocating it would route it further from the flood zone, but would result in close approximation to a steep hillside that is vulnerable to slides and would result in a road that is narrower, windier and potentially less safe than the one we currently have. The proposed relocation would result in a road more dangerous to residents and visitors to the valley.
- Continue to honor current land trade activity with a no net loss of private property in the valley. The NPS should draft a prioritization process to offer residents interested in trading flood zone property for property outside the designated flood zone.
- Conduct, along with Chelan County, a socio-economic impact analysis to identify factors that will allow sustainability and growth of the Stehekin Community. We will not know the impact of future land acquisition without this study. This recreation area is enjoyed by many each year

and a vibrant community is key to the unique experience it affords visitors. It should be a stated goal of the NPS to support an active and economically viable community in the Stehekin Valley.

- Separate the SRCIP and the LPP. This will allow an extended comment period so the impact of the LPP can be clearly understood and the socio-economic study can be incorporated into the LPP. **The comment period should be extended until the end of October 2011.** In the meantime, river controls and road protection measures in the SRCIP should be implemented.
- Change all “acquisition” priorities to “exchange” priorities. It was clear to us shortly after we purchased our property in 2009 that the NPS is aggressive in its acquisition of property. Following a real estate appraisal by the Department of Interior, we were approached by the NPS with an offer to buy our property. We met with an NPS employee in the Seattle office of the NPS and later were sent documents regarding a proposed sale and received numerous follow-up phone calls. A property exchange option was not proposed. We are not interested in selling our property, but might be interested in a trade in the future; however, there is no process that we know of, for matching property currently available for trade with a prioritized list of interested property owners.

The SRCIP and LPP are critical documents that outline major changes in the Stehekin Valley. Although they have been written with some careful and thoughtful consideration for the impact these changes will have, further study is needed especially regarding the impact of relocating the road and regarding the socio-economic threats NPS policies will pose to the Stehekin community.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

National Park Service (NPS)
Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

January 31, 2011

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

This is a short letter of comment regarding the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and Land Protection Plan (LPP).

After reviewing the documents mailed to us by the NPS, we wish to respond during this extended comment period.

We would support and encourage the separation of the SRCIP and the LPP for the purpose of a longer period of study of the socioeconomic impact and more thorough investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin community. In our opinion, the acquisition of land should be only in the trading of private property when that property is in imminent danger and becomes a threat to life safety. Every effort should be made for the protection of that property from erosion due to the impacts of the Stehekin River.

We believe that the importance of private property rights is second only to life safety. The right to the continued use and enjoyment of one's property without interference is a fundamental right in our nation and its laws. "The right of property is the guardian of every other right, and to deprive the people of this, is in fact to deprive them of their liberty" Arthur Lee of Virginia, 1775. With this in mind, we believe that Chelan County and the National Park Service should continue to work with the local property owners to maintain a safe environment for the citizens and visitors to the Stehekin Valley and to keep the community of Stehekin an active and viable part of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and North Cascades National Park.

With these things noted above, we would support Alternative 5 and would like to see Appendix C – the Overlay District removed from the plan.

Thank you for sending us the information packet and for the extended comment period.

[REDACTED]

cc: Representatives Cary Condotta, Mike Armstrong, Senator Linda Evans Parlette, Stehekin Heritage, Mr. Todd Young, Chelan County Commissioners



National Parks Conservation Association®

Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®

February 1, 2010

Superintendent Chip Jenkins
North Cascades NPS Complex
Attn: SRCIP
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Re: Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan/DEIS

Dear Superintendent Jenkins:

On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and our more than 340,000 members nationwide, I respectfully submit the following comments on the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

NPCA supports the project's goal of removing flood endangered structures, including NPS facilities and private property, out of the Stehekin River Channel Migration Zone (CMZ). This project will protect water quality, scenic values, habitat and enhance the natural processes of the Stehekin River.

NPCA supports Alternative 2, the preferred alternative and environmentally preferred, for the following reasons:

- **Channel Migration Zone and Flood Plain Utilization** – Alternative 2 allows floodwater to utilize the natural floodplain instead of being constrained by levees. This utilization of the floodplain reduces flood damage in any one area. Alternative 2 is also preferable because, as the GMP indicates, Alternative 1 and 4 would continue to have moderate to major adverse impacts from development remaining within the CMZ, including private homes, roads and the Company Creek levee. Allowing the river to use the CMZ and therefore the floodplain during flood events aids in river restoration.
- **Protection of Private Property** – Alternative 2 allows most development in the CMZ to be relocated through long-term actions proposed by the revision of the Land Protection Plan (LPP), which NPCA also supports. Private property in the CMZ under Alternative 2 would either be purchased or exchanged for land outside of the CMZ, but only from willing sellers. NPCA supports the NPS intention not to use condemnation to achieve the goals of this plan. The revised LPP identifies new priorities for acquisition and exchange of private property in the CMZ weighted towards river protection more than scenic qualities. NPCA believes this shift in position is positive, because while scenic qualities within the Lake Chelan NRA are an important value, the long term benefits to the river and all of Stehekin by restoring a functional river system outweigh subjective scenic qualities. Under this alternative, the NPS would also encourage the Chelan PUD to keep Lake Chelan levels as low as possible during spring and fall flood seasons to reduce future floods in the Stehekin

Northwest Regional Office
313-A First Avenue, South • Seattle, WA 98104
206.903.1444 • Fax 206.903.1448 • nwro@npca.org • www.npca.org/northwest

Valley. NPCA supports working with private property owners to help move them out of the CMZ while not installing protective measures for those who choose to remain.

- **Land Protection Plan Acquisition Priorities** – NPCA supports the scoring system used in the Draft Land Protection Plan to identify those properties with a High, Low, or Medium acquisition priority. Among the criteria used for the scoring, NPCA supports the use of criterion number 8 – Presence of *permanent structures* (development) on a parcel. This criterion gives a higher priority to developed land that is within the CMZ. Permanent structures in these parcels have the potential to enter the river system during flood events, which could significantly damage the integrity and health of the river. Acquiring these parcels in order to remove septic systems and other permanent structures should be included in the scoring system. Finally, NPS should consider a means by which to possibly lower the acquisition priority of a parcel if it provides important visitor services, even if it is within the CMZ. The community of Stehekin is important, in part, because of its offering of visitor services. The NPS should find a means of preserving these services while not threatening the restoration of the river, if possible.
- **Protecting NPS Facilities** – Alternative 2 would move NPS administrative facilities out of the CMZ, proactively protecting these structures from future flooding. This would include maintenance buildings, NPS housing, fire crew and concession staff housing, septic systems and power lines. The NPS would also restore riparian and upland areas at these vacated sites. NPCA supports proactive instead of reactive measures because proactive actions are often more cost effective. Also, moving the facilities out of the CMZ protects not only NPS infrastructure, but personnel as well.
- **Efficient Use of Limited Funds** – As the DEIS states, “The NPS has spent more than \$3 million to react to recent flood damage and new threats on an event-by-event basis A comprehensive and integrated set of strategies and tactics to meet the goals of the GMP and to mitigate the risk and impacts from flooding is urgently needed to enable the NPS to use limited funds for the maximum benefit of Lake Chelan NRA. Without this comprehensive approach, the NPS would continue to respond on a case-by-case basis, which costs more and could threaten natural resources and public safety.” Alternative 2 would implement the comprehensive approach needed by NPS to mitigate the impacts of more frequent flooding. NPCA is concerned with the budget constraints faced by national parks and supports efforts to efficiently use limited funds for long term benefits.
- **Use of Engineered Logjams and Natural Logjams** – NPCA supports Alternative 2 because it would allow only the minimum manipulation of natural logjams needed to prevent shoreline erosion threatening public roads, protect water quality, keep the public safe, and allow access to private property. Otherwise, large woody debris, including natural logjams, would be preserved as an important component of a functional river system. Alternative 2 also calls for the use of bioengineered logjams instead of rip-rap to stabilize the bank and prevent erosion. Finally, Alternative 2 calls for enhanced interpretive and education programs related to natural river system processes, such as channel migration and the ecological role of large woody debris. NPCA supports the use of bioengineering as opposed to the use of rip-rap, which can be costly and damaging to the river ecosystem.
- **Road Reroute and Improvement** – Relocation of the Stehekin Valley Road around the floodplain at McGregor Meadows would have long-term beneficial impacts on the

sustainability of the Stehekin Valley Road and provide for meadow and wetland restoration. Other alternatives that would retain the current location of the Stehekin Valley Road would instead result in a continuation of unsustainable land use and affect floodplain functions by leaving more of the road within it. Rerouting of this road is also a good proactive solution that improves the road by moving it out of the CMZ instead of replacing it repeatedly. Alternative 2 would also revegetate 0.7 miles of the McGregor Meadows Access Road after it is relocated and convert it into a trail, thereby preventing habitat and wetland damage that could result from future destruction of the road during flood events. NPCA supports this proactive action as cost effective and providing long term benefits while maintaining vehicular access to these areas. Furthermore, NPCA supports the NPS effort to provide continued access to private property within the Stehekin Valley although not required.

- **Complies with Lake Chelan NRA GMP/FEIS** – The Lake Chelan NRA GMP/FEIS restricts the NPS from:
 1. Manipulating the Stehekin River to protect federal property
 2. Manipulating the Stehekin River to protect private property
 3. Manipulating woody debris for reasons besides protecting public roads and bridges

The GMP instructs the NPS to:

1. Encourage private property owners to protect natural river processes
2. Encourage private property owners to minimize impacts on wetland, floodplain, and shoreline areas
3. Relocate NPS structures susceptible to flood damage
4. Restore the natural character of the river

Alternative 2 meets all of the requirements in the GMP better and to a fuller extent than any of the other alternatives presented in the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan/DEIS.

In conclusion, NPCA supports Alternative 2 as the best means for restoring the river and protecting public and private property. NPCA agrees with the proactive measures proposed by the park service and appreciates the park service's efforts to work with private landowners to protect their property interests through exchange or purchase. Finally, NPCA believes that Alternative 2 best complies with the Lake Chelan NRA GMP. NPCA believes that projects meant to restore natural river functions will be increasingly necessary and appropriate as the process of river aggradation and increasingly frequent fall flood events occur in the Northwest.

Sincerely,



David G. Graves
Northwest Program Manager
National Parks Conservation Association
313-A 1st Ave S
Seattle, WA 98104

PH: 206-903-1444, x205
Cell: 206-462-0821
FX: 206-903-1448
dgraves@npca.org

2 February 2011

RE: STEHEKIN RIVER CORRIDOR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

North Cascades National Park
810 SR 20
Sedro-Wooley, WA 98284

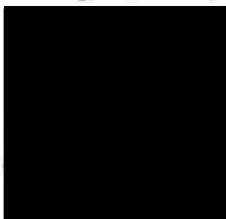
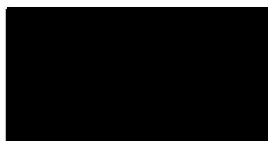
Please note new address below.

I have not entirely digested the documents pertaining to the Stehekin River plan under consideration but would like to make a few comments about park priorities in general, which should relate to the river corridor planning process:

My preference is always for preservation and restoration of ecological and wilderness characteristics to have the highest priority, trumping all other concerns, and for facilitation of non-motorized holistic recreational use to have the second priority, with concern for private property "rights" and "private enterprise" having a distant third priority. It is not that I feel the private sector is unimportant, but that conservation of what defines the North Cascades is vastly more important.

I do not find any legitimacy in the arguments from Stehekin residents that they have special rights which are more important than the greater good of protecting the ecologic system. Stehekin is not so much a "community". Correct me if I am wrong, but I believe the majority of structures at Stehekin are owned by non-residents. Although there are "only" 400-some acres in private ownership, much of this has been overbuilt with eyesore development benefiting a very few people, and then only occasionally, while degrading the scenic inheritance of a nation, etc. Further, the "economy" of Stehekin is largely a monopoly enjoyed by a small number of people enjoying the privilege of inheritance from ancestors who gained that land by the largess of the federal government in the first place. Stehekin is not a viable economic community in the sense that it is not practically possible for anyone not already endowed with considerable wealth to create a viable business there. Speaking of "preserving the living heritage" of Stehekin is quite misleading; the historic way of life at Stehekin which some present day residents wish to portray is 50 years dead, at least. Certainly the Park Service is aware of this irony, I am simply making the point that some in the public are also aware, so the political power of these people needs to be in line with the size of their constituency. They do not deserve special consideration because of the privilege they enjoy of living in paradise.

I am not against private land ownership at Stehekin which does not conflict with resource preservation, though I have felt that a moratorium on further development should have been instituted many years ago, as the county and state governments have failed to control over-development in general, such that the enjoyment of the lower valley is significantly reduced from thirty years ago. I am not "against" the people of Stehekin or their rights, I simply feel that the greater good is more important.



[REDACTED]

February 1, 2011

Superintendent Palmer Jenkins
U S National Park Service
810 Washington 20
Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

We have a home in Stehekin and I am writing to comment on the proposed land acquisition (land grab) by the National Park Service in the Stehekin Valley.

The National Park Service under the guise of buying up property in the flood prone areas of the Valley to "protect the citizens" has made it clear of their intention to purchase private property in order to destroy the small private community of Stehekin. Some of the NPS "high priority" property is not even property near the river but down lake from the mouth of the river and out of any flood zone.

It is clear the federal, state and local governments are in deep financial trouble and should not be taking private properties off the tax rolls. There should never again be anymore net loss of private property in the Stehekin Valley as private properties (and tax rolls) have decreased by seventy five percent since 1968. Private property is essential to maintaining the unique character of the small community of Stehekin and the citizen taxpayers who live there on a permanent or part time basis (some families for several generations).

The focal point for the NPS should be to use their resources to repair or rebuild the road to Cottonwood Camp so visitors could enjoy more of their National Park. The mentality of the NPS reminds me of the guy whose house is falling down and in foreclosure only to take out a loan for a new addition. The NPS should maintain what it has and not take more private property off tax rolls!

I appreciate you taking the time to read my comments (and frustrations) and take them into consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

January 26th, 2011

National Park Service
Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

RE: The Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) and the Land Protection Plan (LPP)

Dear Superintendent Jenkins,

To begin, I think accepting the premise that the Stehekin Community needs "Protection", and "Plans" implemented by the National Park Service is absurd. Literally every challenge faced by the Stehekin community in the last 30 years has been caused by the National Park Service. In my opinion the plan that needs drafting is the exit strategy of the National Park Service out of the Stehekin valley.

Creating problems for the purpose of solving them seems to be the long term strategy of planning to eliminate the Stehekin Community. The fire and flood danger currently experienced by the community is a direct result of National Park Service mismanagement of resources.

The Stehekin community has been hearing about how the Park Service is not/not trying to eliminate the Stehekin residents since 1968 when the National Park Service arrived. The National Park Service has now acquired 75% of the original privately held property. There is only one question required to see through the charade.

How much of this acquired property does the National Park Service intend to return to private ownership?

It can be called whatever you like but the duck is walking like a bureaucracy on its way to managing the community out of existence.

While we are stuck playing the National Park Service game of survival as a community I would like to voice my support of the Stehekin Heritage positions on the proposed National Park Service plans.

- The National Park Service should join Chelan County and conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
- Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, that the National Park Service and Chelan County should work to enact an immediate moratorium on the Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
- The Land Protection Plan must state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

- The NPS should continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
- Change all “acquisition” priorities to read “exchange” priorities. See section 5.2. LPP.
- Separate the SRCIP and the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.
- If the goal of the NPS is to “trade” properties endangered by the river, “Let the River Decide” which pieces are most threatened and need prioritized, and trade only those vulnerable lands. Priority lists would be only for trading purposes. Land trades should be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their original piece with all property rights intact. Value is defined not only by dollar amount but also by potential uses of the original property.
- Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, to harm the road if allowed to erode.
- Remove appendix C – the Overlay District - from the plan.
- Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation. Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

It is my hope that when I am finished serving my country overseas in the Foreign Service that there will be a Stehekin Community to return to in retirement. At this point, I am hedging my bets.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted line]

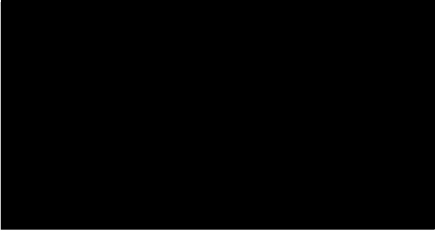
[Redacted block]

Resident address:

[Redacted address block]

Stehekin, WA 98852

cc:



Comments to NPS SRCIP

36

CHN: Superintendent Feb. 5, 2011

As a long time (1962) property owner in the Stehekin Valley, it is with deep concern that I overviewed the NPS Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP) as well as the LPP.

My greatest concern is the NPS Land Acquisition Plan contained in the SRCIP.

Legislation has specified several years ago that NPS can only solicit willing sellers of properties provided that the use of such properties is incompatible with the intent of the Recreational Area.

Because of these and other concerns we urge the NPS to remove any land acquisition plan and intent to buy private property as this is a threat to our constitutional right to private property ownership and a threat to the viability of the Stehekin community.

January 29, 2011

North Cascades NPS Complex, ATTN: SCRIP, 810 State Rt. 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA
98284

RE: NPS draft plans, SRCIP AND LPP

Superintendent Chip Jenkins:

My Mother wrote the following letter and I agree with it's points [REDACTED]
(Stehekin property owner) As a property owner in Stehekin, I do **not** support the NPS draft plans, SRCIP and LPP as written.

My observation is that the NPS has acquired more private property than was originally intended. With only 400 acres left of private lands, any continued land acquisition absolutely defies the intent of PL90-544. Acquisition priorities should be exchange priorities.

With express written intention, our U.S. Congress, passed PL90-544 in 1968. With purpose, the LCNRA was created to encompass the Village of Stehekin -- a vibrant community—1700 acres of private lands, many year around residents, with a long history of providing services and recreation opportunities for visitors.

Senate Report 700 and House report 1870 speak clearly that the 62,000 acre LCNRA were to be managed with a recreation emphasis—quite different from the preservation emphasis of National Parks. The “recreational emphasis” provides for a responsible community of private property owners that can continue to live and thrive in the recreational area and/or provide services for the visiting public. The intentions state that the community was compatible with the law. Development, private properties, and considerable use was compatible. The use of natural resources, sand, rock, gravel, and firewood was permitted.

Circular #1 also was recognized as the primary management guideline for the LCNRA. Circular #1 “provides in part that outdoor recreation shall be recognized as the dominant or primary resource management purpose”. (page 28, Senate Report 700.) The law provides the foundation for continued, viable community life.

Because the NPS has acquired more private property than was originally intended , I believe the NPS should immediately stop listing individual tracts as potential acquisition priorities. Continued land acquisition is incongruent with management policies that support the preservation of community life in the valley.

Appendix C—the Overlay District needs to be removed from the plan.

I fully support Alternative 5 as presented by John Wilsey, at the meeting on January 10, 2010. Alternative 5 is a very practical management philosophy that fits within the enabling legislation, supports a lively community, public access and a good variety of recreation. Alternative 5 supports land trades that increase or maintain but

do not lose existing land base or value. Alternative 5 keeps the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

I believe that supporting these planning objectives and management policies will sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community, as well as improve visitor services.

I do not support moving the NPS maintenance compound as I have not seen a compelling reason. I also disagree with relocation/construction of administrative housing at the north end of the airstrip.

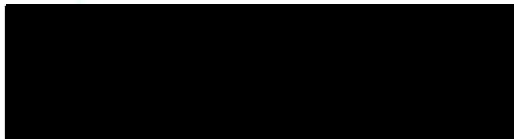
I do not support building a Lower Valley Trail.

I support moving and restoring the road from Car wash Falls to Cottonwood Camp.

I support repairing, maintaining, and protecting the road at its present location from the Landing to Car Wash Falls. I support protecting the road from any further erosion in all likely places.

I fully support the following Ten points written by Stehekin Heritage, members of the community.

Sincerely,



10 points

- 1 ---> • The National Park Service (NPS) join Chelan County and conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
- 2 ---> • Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, that the NPS and Chelan County work to enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.
- 3 ---> • The Land Protection Plan must state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.
- 4 ---> • The NPS should continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition

until the above investigation is conducted.

5 ---> • Change all "acquisition" priorities to read "exchange" priorities. See section 5.2. LPP.

6 ---> • Separate the SRCIP from the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.

7 ---> • If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river, "Let the River Decide" which pieces are most threatened and need prioritized, and trade only those vulnerable lands. Priority lists would be *only* for trading purposes. Land trades should be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their original piece with all property rights intact. Value is defined not only by dollar amount but also by potential uses of the original property.

8 ---> • Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, to harm the road if allowed to erode.

9 ---> • Remove appendix C — the Overlay District - from the plan.

10 --> • Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation. Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

January 29, 2011

North Cascades NPS Complex, ATTN: SCRIP, 810 State Rt. 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

RE: NPS draft plans, SRCIP AND LPP

Superintendent Chip Jenkins:

As a property owner in Stehekin, I do **not** support the NPS draft plans, SRCIP and LPP as written.

My observation is that the NPS has acquired more private property than was originally intended. With only 400 acres left of private lands, any continued land acquisition absolutely defies the intent of PL90-544. Acquisition priorities should be exchange priorities.

With express written intention, our U.S. Congress, passed PL90-544 in 1968. With purpose, the LCNRA was created to encompass the Village of Stehekin -- a vibrant community—1700 acres of private lands, many year around residents, with a long history of providing services and recreation opportunities for visitors.

Senate Report 700 and House report 1870 speak clearly that the 62,000 acre LCNRA were to be managed with a recreation emphasis—quite different from the preservation emphasis of National Parks. The “recreational emphasis” provides for a responsible community of private property owners that can continue to live and thrive in the recreational area and/or provide services for the visiting public. The intentions state that the community was compatible with the law. Development, private properties, and considerable use was compatible. The use of natural resources, sand, rock, gravel, and firewood was permitted.

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Because the NPS has acquired more private property than was originally intended , I believe the NPS should immediately stop listing individual tracts as potential acquisition priorities. Continued land acquisition is incongruent with management policies that support the preservation of community life in the valley.

Appendix C—the Overlay District needs to be removed from the plan.

I fully support Alternative 5 as presented by John Wilsey, at the meeting on January 10, 2010. Alternative 5 is a very practical management philosophy that fits within the enabling legislation, supports a lively community, public access and a good variety of recreation. Alternative 5 supports land trades that increase or maintain but do not lose existing land base or value. Alternative 5 keeps the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

I believe that supporting these planning objectives and management policies will sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community, as well as improve visitor services.

I do not support moving the NPS maintenance compound as I have not seen a compelling reason. I also disagree with relocation/construction of administrative housing at the north end of the airstrip.

I do not support building a Lower Valley Trail.

I support moving and restoring the road from Car wash Falls to Cottonwood Camp.

I support repairing, maintaining, and protecting the road at its present location from the Landing to Car Wash Falls. I support protecting the road from any further erosion in all likely places.

I fully support the following Ten points written by Stehekin Heritage, members of the community.

Given that

10 points

1 ---> • The National Park Service (NPS) join Chelan County and conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.

2 ---> • Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, that the NPS and Chelan County work to enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.

3 ---> • The Land Protection Plan must state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

4 ---> • The NPS should continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.

5 ---> • Change all "acquisition" priorities to read "exchange" priorities. See section 5.2. LPP.

6 ---> • Separate the SRCIP from the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.

7 ---> • If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties endangered by the river, "Let the River

[REDACTED]

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the Stehekin Heritage position in relation to the National Park Service "Stehekin River Flood Mangagement Plan".

It is interesting that over the past few years Stehekin has experienced a 100, 200 and most recently (2006) a 500 year flood, yet the valley, the people, their houses and the road are still there and functioning. Yes some damage occured but the repair costs are minimal in relation to what would be spent on removing the road and buying land.

Those private properties that build houses on a flood zone area know fair well that mother nature could take their land. They also know that the loss will be theirs and not put the burden on others. I don't think it is right for the government to be responsible for others poor decisions. If someone wants to build on a bad area let them, but don't put the burden on me.

I believe presently the majority of the people feel that there is too much government and government expenses. We should be cutting back not expanding. Where do they plan on getting the money?

Lastly, maintaining the integrety of the private community should be a priority. Private ownership and business is the cornerstone of this country and must be maintained. The future of a prosperous nation is for less government interference and ownership not more.

Again, let it be know that I strongly support the Stehekin Heritage Committee and their postion on this matter.

[REDACTED]



February 8, 2011

Superintendent Chip Jenkins
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
Attn: SCRIP/DEIS
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Superintendent Jenkins:

The Mountaineers has a long history of association with North Cascades National Park. Our 10,000 members enjoy a variety of activities in the Stehekin River Valley including hiking, climbing, boating, and nature study. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan. Given the frequency and seriousness of the flood events on the Stehekin River, we support the effort to move the road out of the channel migration zone as proposed in the Park's preferred Alternative Two. The Mountaineers believes that this action will ultimately improve both the ecological health of the lower valley and the river, as well as create a more reliable means of accessing the upper valley for recreational uses.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS for the Lower Stehekin Valley. We ask that you consider our comments as you proceed, and that you keep us informed about your decisions in the future.

Respectfully Yours,

Martinique Grigg

Executive Director
The Mountaineers

7700 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 521-6000
(206) 523-6763 fax



The Mountaineers

www.mountaineers.org

February 9, 2011

National Park Service, North Cascades National Park
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, Wa 98284

Attention: Superintendent Palmer Jenkins

RE: Stehekin Valley Proposals SRCIP and LPP

Dear Superintendent Jenkins:

It has come to our attention that two proposals before the Park Service regarding the future of the Stehekin Valley are looming large on the horizon. We wish to go on record that we would like to see the Park Service honor current land trade activity as opposed to any proposed acquisition scenarios. We support the formation of an impact analysis study to determine the long term effects on this beloved community and the subsequent outcome to the public for use of the Lake Chelan Recreation Area, which we have enjoyed for over 30 years. We have become friends with many residents of the valley and share their love of Stehekin and its way of life.

"In order for Stehekin to sustain a unique and valuable private community into the future, the security and permanence of the valley's current private land base is critical. The value of Stehekin's private community is proven over time, noteworthy enough to be set aside in legislation and preferred by the visiting public.

The private land base within the valley has been reduced by seventy five percent of original private ownership since 1968 affecting the future character of Stehekin. With lands being removed from private ownership without limitation, we are at a critical point in time as to whether the value of Stehekin's one of a kind culture can continue.

Our goal is to preserve and protect what remaining private lands exist in Stehekin and call for "No further net loss of private land base value." We champion the cause that all pertinent governing agencies recognize, adopt and support this principle, thereby displaying support for the future of the private community within Stehekin, by assuring permanence of our land base." Stehekin Heritage

We urge you to consider the consequences of these proposals as they will surely succeed in eliminating a community that has been there for generations. Once the community is gone, access to the land will become prohibitive, accessible to only a fraction of the population. How sad that would be. We realize that maintaining the road has become a cost that the Park Service would like to eliminate, but does not weigh heavy enough for the radical proposals on the table. Let's give this a realistic review with all elements given consideration besides the Park budget. We thank you for your time.

[Redacted signature block]

National Park Service

Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

February 8, 2011

To Whom It May Concern;

We are writing in response to the NPS Land Protection Plan and the River Plan as well.

I am sure there is no surprise we are seriously opposed to having our "private" property listed on a government acquisition "**HIT LIST**". And, of course having only a few acres of land to "trade" compared to the over 200 to "acquire" has some serious problems.

We would support a "Chelan County-NPS" study of the socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request that the NPS support Chelan County and **enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.**

We agree that it is essential that the LPP state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active and vibrant community people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

That: **appendix C - the Overlay District** - should be removed from this plan.

That: the Stehekin Valley Road should be maintained at its present location.

Alternative 5 - We support this alternative as it represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation.

Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land

base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

And lastly to remove any facility section from all alternatives since there appears to be no clear process. And if "new" housing is needed a type that would blend with the overall valley would be much better than a "multi-plex" type.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

cc.

We ask that until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, **the NPS and Chelan County work to enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in the Stehekin Valley.**

We ask that The Land Protection Plan **state overtly** in the overall objectives and goals that: **It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitors appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.**

The Stehekin community is unique, and visitors that ask questions about the valley are thrilled to talk with a native! We experience this on a daily basis during the summer months. The value of Stehekin's private community is proven over time, noteworthy enough to be set aside in legislation and **preferred by the visiting public.**

We ask the NPS should continue to honor current land trade activity, with no net loss of private property land base value, but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.

If the goal of the NPS is to "trade" properties that are endangered by the river, **"Let the River Decide"** which pieces are most threatened and trade only those vulnerable lands. Land trades need to be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their property with all property rights intact.

We ask that the NPS **maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location** and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, to harm the road if allowed to erode.

We ask the NPS change all "acquisition" priorities to read "exchange" priorities. (See section 5.2 LPP)

We ask the NPS to separate the SRCIP and the LPP to allow an extended time for study of the impacts of the LPP, the NPS immediately implement river control and road protection measures listed in the SRCIP. In addition, expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.

We ask that **Appendix C be removed- the Overlay District - from the plan.**

We Support Alternative 5- It represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, and supports a vibrant community, with public access and recreation. Alternative 5 supports land trades (with no net loss of land base or value) **keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access. Visitors enjoy being able to view the river from the road.**

We thank you for this opportunity to give you our input.

Sincerely,



February 10, 2011

National Park Service
Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

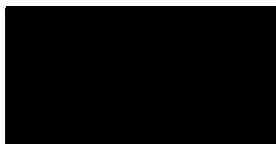
I am writing in response to the proposed Stehekin River Corridor Plan and Land Protection Plan. As a property owner on the Stehekin River, we have experienced first hand the results of recent flooding. However, I feel more threatened by the prioritization of my property than I do the river.

The original intent of congress was to protect the natural resources of the North Cascades and community of Stehekin. The preservation of the community can only be accomplished if there is no net loss of private property. The LLP prioritization of the remaining private property implies the NPS should be acquiring virtually all of the private property in the valley. I am in favor of a moratorium on all further private property land acquisition unless it is an exchange for land of comparable value/size. Much more federal land would need to be made available for exchange if the intent is truly to support removing threatened private properties along the river corridor.

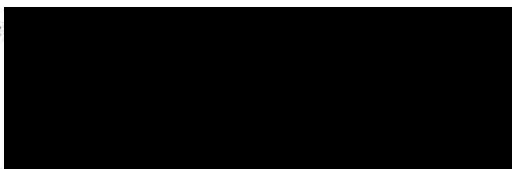
I would request the National Park Service and Chelan County do an impact analysis on the effect of continued land acquisition on the community of Stehekin.

The proposals to protect the road (what little is still available for public use) should be a high priority as well as the restoration of riverbank at the Buckner Homestead.

Thank you for considering my comments,



Cc



Superintendent Palmer Jenkins
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

February 11, 2011

Comments by North Cascades Conservation Council on Draft Stehekin River Corridor
Implementation Plan: Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Land Protection Plan 2010

Dear Superintendent Jenkins:

North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC) was formed in 1957 to protect and preserve the North Cascades' scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, wildlife and wilderness values. We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the two draft plans, i.e., Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan and companion Draft Land Protection Plan 2010 and Environmental Impact Statement. We commend you and your staff as well as consultants on the professional process through which you have engaged with our organization and with all others who care deeply about the future of the lower Stehekin Valley. The science-based analyses of factors that have altered the fundamental natural forces of the Stehekin River and the thorough study of the implications for management are extremely helpful to NCCC in formulating its comments on the range of management options the National Park Service (NPS) has considered.

At the outset it may be appropriate to clarify NCCC's longstanding interests and positions with respect to the Stehekin Valley, NPS management, and the Stehekin community. First, NCCC regards the Stehekin Valley area as unique in its natural and cultural elements. Second, we regard NPS management as a critical component of preserving the national interest in the scenic and other natural environmental attributes of the area. Third, we are aware that this important NPS role translates into policies that affect the residents and community of Stehekin however we recognize that the NPS has limited authority to affect local determination exercised within the jurisdictions of Washington State agencies and Chelan County, community organizations and individual choices made by residents and property owners. Fourth, we are also aware that many of the services the NPS provides, e.g., waste removal, road maintenance and snow clearing, fire hazard reduction and fire fighting, visitor services, and emergency response, to name a few, also serve the needs of the community and offer employment opportunities for local residents. Payments in lieu of taxes are also made by the federal government. Fifth, NCCC understands the legislative mandate that the NPS only consider land acquisition from willing-sellers. We support the exercise of this option as the right of private property owners to dispose of their property according to their own wishes. Likewise, we understand that NPS purchase of private property is subject to its own determination of the value to the public of those lands and the requirements to assign fair market value through the federal regulations regarding appraisals. NCCC also understands that the NPS is required to consider the identification of potential parcels of land for exchange for public purposes. NCCC supports the NPS in judicious use of its legal authorities in this area. If requested by willing sellers, NCCC would endeavor to assist property owners in appropriate ways in fulfilling their intent to sell property.

NCCC would like to underscore that over 40 plus years, it has sought NPS planning for the upper and lower Stehekin Valley as a composite and not segmented decision processes. In the upper

valley the destabilizing floods have clearly indicated that maintenance of roads is impossible without very expensive investments. Such investments are extremely hard to justify given the scant demand and the high cost both fiscally and in terms of the protected environment. We observe, in fact that, recreational usage of the areas without road access appears to be equal to recreational usage when there was road access. When nature speaks, we should listen.

The Lower Stehekin Corridor is right in the middle of dealing with destabilized river sediment transport. If there is justification for public expenditure of management funds, then it should be in the Lower Stehekin Valley where most economic activity occurs, where the NPS facilities are most at risk if not relocated and where private property owners are most at risk. Alternative 2 is estimated to cost \$27.80 million to fully implement and these investments are necessitated by changing conditions in the Corridor and the need to relocate visitor and other facilities. NCCC would emphasize the limited role the NPS can play with respect to State and County responsibilities. We appreciate the efforts made in both plans for the NPS to clarify its jurisdictions and responsibilities.

NCCC Comments are organized as follows:

Comments on the Draft Land Protection Plan
Comments on the Draft Stehekin Corridor Plan
Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Comments on the Draft Land Protection Plan

NCCC is glad to see the previous 1995 Land Protection Plan [LPP] being updated and replaced. Without belaboring the points, NCCC has been disappointed in the implementation of the 1995 Plan. The criteria for selecting lands for exchange were flawed and the processes employed tended to favor private and not public interests.

NCCC is prepared to take a new look at the Draft LPP. It is useful to point out that the land base in private ownership and the number of privately owned parcels has changed very little in the intervening 16 years. The number of structures has increased and this lessens the visitor's experience of a small community located in a remote wild and natural Valley.

The Draft LPP seems heavily focused on the relationship of each parcel of land to the Stehekin River which is appropriate given the changing nature of the river and the geologic and hydrologic processes driving its potential impacts on public and private structures and property. This emphasis responds to the increased risk and uncertainty related to occupancy of properties exposed to the new flood regime and it provides the NPS and property owners with viable options for adjustment that were not available or as high a priority in the previous LPP.

NCCC would suggest that, in addition to this emphasis, the NPS consider revising the priorities to give high priority to lands that enhance scenic beauty and or buffer visual impacts of development as experienced by visitors.

With respect to Sec. 1.4 Guidelines it appears that the NPS is merely restating its limited authority to manage land use. This may be useful to clarify for all parties what the NPS can and cannot do and that is important. However, many of these guidelines are conditioned on uses being “compatible” and that term is defined pp. 17-20 to the satisfaction of NCCC. While we understand that some parties may not like these definitions or not trust them, NCCC would note that they have been applied for a considerable amount of time without challenge. Most importantly, we applaud the NPS for applying these standards to its own activities before and continuing as part of this planning process. This consistency of application should help to clarify NPS intent and practice. Concomitantly NCCC would urge the NPS to continue to pursue with the Stehekin Community acting in concert with Chelan County in adopting and “overlay district” as outlined in Section 4.2.4. This would have the advantages of providing surety to local aspirations for sustainable community development as demonstrated in the Icicle Creek Valley of Chelan County.

NCCC strongly supports the efforts of the NPS in this revised LPP to clarify its limited jurisdiction over private property in the Stehekin Valley and its willingness to engage with individuals, the Stehekin community, Chelan County and the State of Washington in developing predictable and reliable conditions for the future. NCCC finds it frustrating to hear rhetoric about the NPS buying everyone out when the NPS is only identifying as it is required by law to do, those properties of highest value for the public. It is time to get real.

As mentioned above, NCCC would like to elevate visual quality of Stehekin Valley visitor [or resident] experience as part of the LPP priorities.

As far as the identification of exchange lands is concerned NCCC would support the inclusion of the area in the vicinity of the Airstrip. In fact, NCCC would support the identification of the airstrip itself as exchange land because it meets all of the criteria. Decommissioning of the airstrip would remove an incompatible use in the view of NCCC, provide significant easily accessible land for residences not in the floodplain, and discontinue a hazardous activity [difficult landing pattern, numerous fatalities, potential for fire, intrusion in beaver habitat, etc.]. In many respects, the NPS should be encouraged to close the airstrip and offer properties for exchange – over time revegetation could take place, invasive species would be naturally controlled, etc. We note this alternative was considered but rejected as in conflict with the 1995 GMP. By allowing this conflicting and hazardous use to continue the NPS is creating an attractive nuisance as well as keeping a scar on the landscape second only to the Holden Mine tailings [which the National Forest Service is now in the process of restoring].

NCCC would discourage the inclusion of property in the vicinity of Rainbow Falls in the exchange lands category. There are several reasons for this. First, it appears that property was one purchased by NCCC members when the NPS was not able to accommodate the requests of all willing sellers in the early day of the NPS. The intent was to be sure it remained in NPS jurisdiction. NCCC understands that is not the way the system works, however, NCCC would suggest that that property proposed for exchange might be better reserved for campground use. Please note that the adjacent property is now available for sale. If the owner of the property adjacent were a willing seller 06-106 it would seem a long term prudent action for the NPS to acquire that property so the Rainbow District could be fully devoted to public purposes. Under

the present rating regime, this property only rates as “medium” in terms of NPS identification of interest. NCCC would point out this rating turns up because the property is not in the flood plain and is therefore of lower value. This shows the limitations of overemphasizing the floodplain in the 2010 LPP. There needs to be more balance in the purposes served.

Finally, NCCC would question the identification as exchange properties in Fig. 5 that are upstream of Boulder Creek and along the Stehekin River. This would promote development in a way to block visitors from the Stehekin River corridor and despite the minimal buffer from the river would put private property between the visitor and the river.

Comments on the Draft Stehekin Corridor Plan

In preface to NCCC comments on the DSCP, NCCC wants to recognize the difficult task that the NPS has in developing a plan for a river on a slow but steady rampage. The clear and competent descriptions of river processes and how they have changed the floodplain in the recent past and for the foreseeable future are extremely valuable to us in evaluating the Plan alternatives. While, NCCC appreciates the efforts to plan, we also are aware that the combination of rain, snow melt, slides, logjams are impossible to predict and they may surprise even the best laid plans. NCCC applauds the NPS efforts to allow the river to seek its own equilibrium with carefully engineered and geo friendly techniques rather than massive and expensive control structures or similarly expensive and river resource damaging channel dredging.

The NPS preferred alternative # 2 seems to capture most of NCCC concerns and the management directions we would support with some caveats as mentioned above with regard to the criteria for land acquisition. We do have concerns about some aspects of road rerouting in the vicinity of what has been identified as habitat of the spotted owl but we hope the NPS has exercised due diligence in its consideration of that concern. When one looks in the aggregate at the impact categories [Fig. ii-11, p. xli], however, one is struck by the lack of benefits and major adverse impacts absorbed by Wildlife and Special Status Wildlife. It is difficult to recreate the specific rankings for the Figure, but it points to a need by the NPS to consider significant mitigation for these adverse impacts to wildlife or to seek ways to reduce or avoid these impacts. Alternatively, if the rankings improperly reflect the impact of management actions under the Plan, they should be revised. NCCC review of the wildlife and special status species mitigation measures (pp 77-79) is noted but the question remains if Fig. ii-11 ranks impacts before or after mitigation [hopefully before].

NCCC found it difficult to interpret the NPS meaning with respect to Cultural resources [p.55] and suspect that there needs to some editing where it states that no pre-contact archaeology was found in the Corridor area and therefore it is treated in the DEIS? If no sites are found how can it be treated in the DEIS. NCCC does not want to be seen as trying to second guess the archeologists who made the determination but we would question if the action of the river itself may have covered over potential sites. We would propose that the NPS evaluate this contingency and state how it is prepared to protect and preserve any sites that are exposed by the evolution of the river channel. The issue we are raising here is how the NPS would respond if the river action itself uncovered sites as opposed to the mitigation measures (p. 479-480) for sites and artifacts discovered as a consequence of construction.

NCCC supports the closure of the shooting range.

NCCC supports the construction of trails in the lower valley [Landing to High Bridge] to benefit visitors and to improve safety.

A minor edit but important issue is that it is NCCC understanding that the Board of Geographic Names changed the “Coon Run” “Coon Lake” designation. The Final documents should reflect those decisions [see pp. 91, 185, 214, 216, 223, 349, 353, 420, 471, etc.].

Overall, NCCC is pleased with the effort to go with the flow of the river in attempting to plan for the Stehekin Corridor. While NCCC advocated for a more comprehensive look at the Lower Stehekin Valley issues, we accept this more narrowly focused set of plans and DEIS. We look forward to the Final set of Plans and EIS and most importantly toward implementation. In closing, we offer support for finding the necessary funding to implement the plan and we hope there will not be too many surprises.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

in other communities, makes me personally very doubtful that these trades can take place in a manner that is fair to all constituents, including all landholders, the Park, its visitors and the environment. I hope you will keep this in mind in all your dealings.

River management is a subject beyond my expertise, but my strong preference is for as little interference or manipulation of the river as possible. That would mean the least possible number of barbs, the least possible disruption of naturally occurring logjams and the use of wood and man-made logjams instead of barbs wherever possible.

Thank you for your work on these issues and your on-going stewardship of this national treasure. The issues involved are scientifically and politically complex, and we appreciate your efforts.





February 5, 2011

Dear Chip,

I am writing to comment on both the SCRIP and the LPP .

I am very grateful to you and your staff for all the work you have done. And I am very grateful that you committed to a comprehensive river plan. I have felt for a long time that this was needed, and that without it small decisions were being made to effect the river without considering all the implications, implications that could add up to serious damage to the central natural feature of the valley. The river is the defining if not most important feature of this very special place.

I have to first say that your work is so exhaustive that I who care very much about the subject and know the valley very well if not intimately found it almost impossible to work my way carefully through all the pages. And so I regret that I am not able to comment on so many points that may in the future be crucial, but which escape my focus now.

First I would like to make a few general remarks:

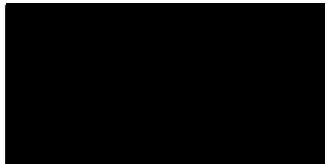
I support the preferred alternative in general because I believe it is the one that most allows the river to maintain its natural state with the least human interference. All the alternatives represent in one way or another a compromise between the forces of human existence in the valley and the raw force of the river. The NPS is there to protect the natural qualities of the valley and to respect the existing community of people. I understand that. I hope also that all the people there respect the nature of the river and wish to live with it.

This said, I would like to make a plea for the least number of barbs, the least number of wood manipulations, and wherever possible to clear the way for the river to flow freely. I favor the removal of human dwellings from the flood plain whenever possible. I support the purchase or exchange of property in the floodplain on a willing seller basis whenever possible.

I support the reroute of the road from McGregor Meadows to the higher ground. However I am concerned about the interference with the spotted owl habitat and am not sure this can be accomplished. If it can be, I see great value in turning the present road into a dead end road of a rustic nature until there are no longer dwellings up that way. I think this will make for a very attractive area for the general public to explore and enjoy without much stress and strain in getting there. It is an easy bike ride to there, and then there are wonderful varied natural areas to be explored.

I am very happy with the proposed new trails. There is a great need for this, new ways for the public to experience the beautiful valley without the encroachment of cars and commerce. I do want to add that I feel there is a very great need for an alternative trail along side the road or in the woods leading from the end of the lake to the bakery. The new trail does not go to the bakery if I read it correctly. Most people want to walk there. Last summer there was veritable pedestrian jam on the road most of the day and this makes for a very dangerous hazard where eventually a car may well strike a pedestrian. But aside from the danger the visitor deserves a trail that leads along pathways and not on the paved road.

About the firing range, I have long thought it was inappropriate and unnecessary for the valley. The noise is unfriendly to wildlife that we hope to live around and see on a regular basis. I personally do not like encouraging the use of guns in the park either though that is, I know, elsewhere a seriously debated issue these days.



As you know, we are the owners of a property that is very seriously threatened by the river and could lose our house at any moment that the river rises and decides to come our way with all its force. Above I stated that I support the exchange of land to move people out of the flood plain, and I do. However, I am opposed to most of the trades and tradable lands proposed in the LPP.

A personal note: we are too attached to our present location to want to move and also know that we cannot afford it with increased amount of money we would need to develop a new spot even if that was desirable to us. And so we have to take our chances with nature and the river and hope we can stay where we are. On the other hand we regret that we are in the floodplain and, when it does flood, we are causing some pollution to the river.

But in general the new LPP, which now has admirable goals to protect the river, does not take into consideration enough the overall planning for the Valley and the preservation of its wildness, which is a major reason why people come to experience it and what we treasure about it.

The properties to be traded represent mostly a movement toward sprawl, though I realize it is sprawl of a rural nature.

I can support a concentration of density for added human population. That is good planning and allows then for open natural areas to remain natural and accessible to the general public.

For this reason I strongly oppose the releasing of the two Boulder Creek properties to private hands. This is what I call sprawl. What is now undeveloped land giving the feeling of relief from the developments below and above them on the Stehekin Road becomes one string of private and developed properties from the end of the lake to the School. I think this "Boulder" area should remain open and free to the public and to the eye.

I can support the Keller piece between Tom and Crag's property being meaningfully traded to protect the river, but I oppose the piece on the other side of the road between the bakery and Tom's garage for the same reasons. Right now one gets a little relief there from what is already too much development around the bakery and on the other side of the road.

The Webb property raises another very serious issue as well as representing more density too. As you know, this property belonged to my father and mother in law. They sold to the Park (at what they considered a low price) with the belief that the property (and the whole section) would never be developed and would protect the whole area across from the Falls from development. As we know now with sadness, the piece next to it was sold and developed. This now seriously damages the naturalness of the whole section. This, however, does not justify another development and further increases to the density. Oliver Webb has been gone since 1991, but Peggy Webb is more recently on record as protesting the possible trade of this piece when it was proposed as a trade to the Stiffters in exchange for the hill above their present property. Her letter is in your files. Any trade flies in the face of Oliver and Peggy's intentions. For this reason I oppose the Webb property being put back into private hands. What kind of precedent is this to go against the wishes and intentions of a person who works and sacrifices to preserve a place in its natural state forever? And what kind of an inhibition is this to anyone else wishing to put beautiful natural land in the hands of the public?

The development of the area around the airstrip seems to me less damaging especially if combined with the movement of park facilities up out of the flood plain. I would ask that this move be coupled with an ironclad commitment to remove the old park facilities once their use is relocated and to restore the land they are on now to its natural state. This leaves the five acres next to the Stehekin Ranch. This piece is seriously degraded by the use of horses over a long period of time. I do not know what the arrangements are for its present use, but I would expect that the present users would be required to restore the property to its state before its use for horses and that the property not be offered in its present state and degraded value.

As for the LPP and its linkage to the river's needs, I do not see how the LPP in its present form will help very much with the issues at hand of the river and its flow. The park has identified 66 properties, which could be traded, and only a fraction of that number eligible to be traded for.

And then we have on record the history of the two previous trades of recent years, both of which I can only say are sad abuses that did not serve the public. The first one to Cliff Courtney for the mining rights in the Park proper was as I

understood it misrepresented to the public. I, who knows the valley well, thought that trade was for the piece now being used by the horses and so I did not comment even though I thought the leverage (threat) being used to obtain the trade was probably not of value to merit the trade.

The second trade for the piece across from the bakery for a piece along the river was contested vigorously by many of us and was in fact opposed by many within the park services itself. The trade went through in spite of this opposition and in spite of very good arguments against it, including the spotted owl habitat that it represented. I can go into greater detail on why this trade was wrong, but here it is simply worth saying that this was an abuse and a wrong use of the legal right to trade.

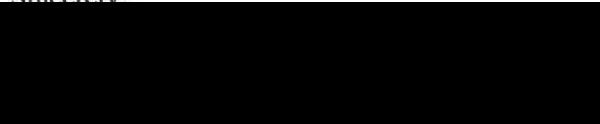
This last trade is also an example of how dangerous a territory we are entering with the mention of trades to save the river. There are too few lands to be traded so how do we decide who gets to trade? In the above mentioned case the trade was justified by saying that it would preserve and protect the river, an almost completely specious argument unless all the other riverside private properties on both sides of the one traded were also included in the swap. Then significant river bank would have been freed up, but as it is now, almost no impact has been made, and in the deal a very valuable and rare piece was give into private hands to be developed.


This development also is exactly an example of the sprawl I was earlier so concerned about. What was then a natural relief across from the bakery has now become an construction zone with several big buildings and a corral to come in the future in the place of a lovely woods that all the public could enjoy. Furthermore I have to add here that the process of that trade is now evidence of more flaws. A fifty-foot buffer zone was to protect the destruction of the forest from the eyes of the public. I agued that this is far from enough. One can now see that I was correct. And this fifty feet is not even enforced or respected. An abandoned school bus sat in the buffer zone across from the bakery all summer. It was also my understanding that once the corral had been allowed on the newly acquired piece of private property, there would no longer be a need for the present corral and that present corral area would be restored with natural vegetation. I have not seen any movement toward this end. It would have been, as I suggested, better to include the existing corral in the trade and cut down the land on the other side of the road to be traded and push it farther back into the woods, owl territory or not. Ah, well.

This concludes my comments, and I appreciate very much your careful consideration of them as well all the issues. I look forward to working further with you as we all move toward protecting our beloved valley.

Again, thank you for all the good and serious work you have put into this effort.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.



Superintendent Chip Jenkins
North Cascades National Park
810 St Rte 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA. 98284

February 10, 2011

Dear Chip,

This letter is commenting on the Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan. Thank you for the opportunity. I'd like to thank everyone who worked on this comprehensive plan and I am most appreciative of the extra meetings and the extension of the commenting period.

I have encountered and talked with visitors to the Stehekin Valley through my work as an interpretive ranger with the Park Service for the last 13 years and also through working at the community craftshop for the last 33 years. During this period hiking opportunities here have become less accessible due to the road being shortened by the 2003 flood and seasonal fires and floods which often add trail and camp closures. I applaud all the increased possibilities for recreation in this plan especially the proposed trail from the landing to High Bridge and the bridge across the river at Boulder Creek increasing access to the River Trail. These would both be outstanding additions to the hiking possibilities here. Camping options in the lower valley are severely limited so I also support potential campsites in the Company Creek Area, Purple Point Horse Camp Area, Rainbow Falls Area and Bullion Camp Area. **I fervently hope these projects are implemented.**

As someone who has made their home here for 33 years and loves this place for it's natural beauty and rare isolated character I must object to the proposed housing compound. **The idea of cramming so many residences in such a small place just doesn't fit the ambiance or culture here.** It will be an eyesore from the many trails that overlook the valley and from the road especially the multiplexes which are really inappropriate and incompatible. I can't imagine that employees who come here to work will appreciate being housed in such a "subdivisionish" place and I feel that segregating park employees in such a compound will only add to the alienation between "the community" and "the park", a serious disservice to us all. I would greatly prefer effort

and resources being used to upgrade or replace existing residences scattered throughout the valley. There is definitely a need for better fire facilities and housing but I would like to see them placed near the area used for the spike camp. It would be more efficient and hopefully could use existing roads. Since the maintenance facility requires year round accessibility I think it should be just off the road upvalley from the proposed compound thereby clustering it close to the power plant. It seems to me the area of the proposed compound is more valuable just for it's open space and as land available for trade if desired.

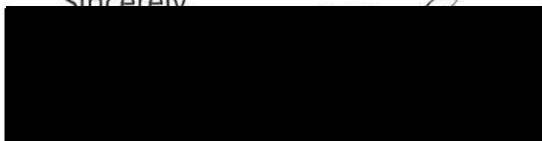
I found the chance to walk some of the areas impacted by this plan with knowledgeable park employees and interested members of the community to be most valuable. As we walked the proposed re route of the road many commented on the fact that the new road would provide visitors with better views of the river and the mountains across the river and residences would not be visible as they are now, with the notable exception of our place. In fact, after Rainbow Falls until the Ranch, ours would be the only visible residence. If the proposed reroute started below our place instead of immediately above it, I think the public would be better served by a more seamless pristine view of Mother Nature. More importantly, I think it would be safer since the stretch just off the reroute as now planned will be the first straight stretch after steeper, more curvy parts causing an increased tendency to speed. This is already a serious problem which would really be exacerbated. Extending the reroute passed us would provide a more gradual interface with the existing road and this area would be one of the easier parts in which to put a road as it already has old sections of dirt roads and fire breaks.

I sympathize with my neighbors concerns about continued access to their property from the "spur" road and would like to see a firmer commitment how (not whether) to restore access in the event future flooding denies it. The spur road should be regularly plowed also. I think the installation of a large woody debris jam at seven mile between the grade control structure and the river providing an additional barrier to the river cutting down the road here is a must. This would be similar to the one proposed near Boulder Creek.

An alternate spot for a shooting range should be identified. The current one is used and it's safer to have a range rather than random shooting.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

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Superintendent Palmer Jenkins
North Cascades National Park
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley Washington 98284

February 9, 2011

This letter is in response to the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan.

Hi Chip,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan and thank you for extending the comment period.

I am very pleased to see included in the plan a continuous trail from Stehekin to High Bridge. This has been talked about for several decades and it is my fervent hope that NPS has the funding to construct new trail connecting existing trails as proposed.

Since the NPS preferred alternative is abandoning the existing road near the lower field, I do question the decision to route the new trail in that abandoned road area. I think it will be hard to maintain a trail there when the river moves into the former road area and it sounds like NPS expects that to happen.

I would suggest that the trail stay a little higher when it leaves the upper end of Rainbow Loop and follow a contour near the old wagon road.

People and fishermen will keep an informal trail near the river there so walking access to the river near the lower field would not end.

The maintenance/housing relocation seems like a mistake on a few levels.

First of all, by building a subdivision with multiplexes, duplexes, single family houses and NPS maintenance and transfer garbage station, the NPS could be looked on as developing property incompatibly in this neighborhood and in this Lake Chelan NRA.

I would like to ask if the NPS plan for this development would get approval from Chelan County Building Department and Chelan Douglas Health District.

I know the Feds don't have to submit building plans to local counties but I am interested to know if NPS proposed plans could meet Chelan County standards for an intense new development that would change the character of the neighborhood in such a radical way.

Secondly, by segregating all the NPS employee housing into one compound any division felt between "parkie" and "local yocal" will widen immensely and be a detriment to the Stehekin Valley.

Third, it is unclear that this location for the proposed NPS Compound would be safer from flooding. The threat for this location would be Company Creek which is a steep, fast moving tributary that moves trees constantly and creates large logjams that can change the creek's course.

It wouldn't take long, under the right conditions for Company Creek to aim itself towards this new NPS compound.

Company Creek provides hydropower for the Stehekin Valley and the priority is to keep the creek from threatening the power house. The new compound proposal location is downstream from the powerhouse. The alluvial fan and gravel deposits show that Company Creek has spilled downvalley of its current channel in the past.

Fourth, in the proposals for this new subdivision NPS Compound, this location would be extremely visible from various trails and popular ridge walks. Not exactly what people want to look at and listen to when they are out communing with nature.

Fifth, there are parcels available for trade in the middle of the proposed development. Why would any private individual want to build in the middle of an NPS Maintenance/Housing Compound?

Sixth, based on observation of Maintenance Facilities/Housing Compounds there will be many bright humming outdoor lights that will affect the existing lightscape in a detrimental way both to our furry friends and our hairless brothers/sisters. Depending on the vantage point, the outdoor lighting will be seen for miles at night.

The road re-route around McGregor Meadow is a big issue and could be easily seen as an abandonment of all the private property owners that will be located southwest of the new road.

NPS is still required by a judge's decree to maintain the existing road and it must be maintained to a level that allows power company trucks, fire trucks and property owners reasonable access. So the reroute means an additional 2 miles of road to maintain and I believe this new section of road will prove to be expensive and time consuming to maintain properly. 18 new culverts means 18 more problems when it rains hard, plus there are many avalanche slide tracks that the new road location goes quite close to.

I could see a future winter when NPS declares "we don't have the manpower or \$ to keep the road plowed to the ranch".

But NPS feels this re-route is necessary and that the river will eventually have a main channel down the existing road corridor.

The reroute starts less than one eighth of a mile from our property and as you know if this reroute is done we are requesting that the reroute be extended so that it start at Bear Trap Spring, about an eighth of a mile downvalley of our house. Public and private safety is a legitimate concern, speeding on the road by our property will increase greatly since it will be the straightest stretch of road immediately south of the reroute. Speeding is already a life/safety issue in this area.

There is a proposal in the preferred alternative to reroute a public road into the planned river take out/put in near the River Resort . Extending the McGregor Meadows reroute so that it begins at Bear Trap Spring just southeast of our buildings is justifiable for the same reasons as the lower valley river access road reroute is.

The McGregor Meadow proposed reroute is located far enough away from private residences and I prefer the surveyed route that is the farthest from the existing residences. To be cohesive in this theme of being sensitive to peoples privacy and safety, it only makes sense to start the reroute near Bear Trap Spring.

Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area.

February 10, 2011

North Cascades NPS Complex
Attn. SCRIP and LPP
810 State Rt. 20
Sedro-Woolley, Wa. 98284
Attn. Palmer Jenkins

RE: NPS draft plans, SCRIP and LPP

As a property owner in Stehekin, Washington I am against the NPS draft plans, LPP and SRCIP as they are currently written.

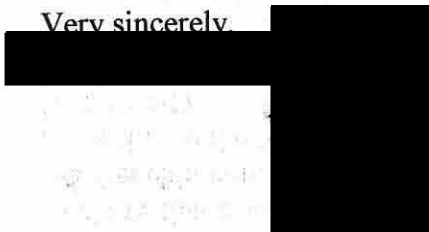
I would like to demand a moratorium on any land acquisition by the federal government on the simple grounds that they do not have the money now to maintain what they do have, or develop much of the real estate that they currently own. They would like people to donate their land or give them their land as they are not able to acquire other properties that they would like to own. Can you tell me at what point does it end when the federal government ceases to end acquiring public land?

I believe that a socio-economic study should be done on the impact that it would make to the Stehekin community if the proposed plan for Stehekin were actually to take place according to the NPS current plan. The private land base within the valley has been REDUCED by 75% of the original private ownership since 1968. This has affected the character of Stehekin greatly with its uniqueness of a one of a kind culture. We do not want any further loss of private land to the federal government. We need the land base value to stay where it is now.

I am also opposed to moving the Stehekin Valley road. I believe it should be maintained in its current location and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, to harm the road if allowed to erode.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my opinion.

Very sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

February 8, 2011

National Park Service
Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Superintendent Jenkins,

I've been visiting the Stehekin Valley all of my life. From the time I was a little boy until having children of my own, I've had the good fortune of spending a great deal of time in the Valley. As you would probably agree, there's something very special and unique about Stehekin that extends far beyond its natural beauty. The people who make up the Stehekin Community are in large part what make Stehekin such a special place. In my opinion, the community of Stehekin represents a harkening back to a bygone era...something that is rarely lived or experienced...mostly only found in books or in paintings.

I urge the National Park Service to support the heritage of the Stehekin Community and ensure its viability for generations to come. The Community is really a living history that helps remind me and my family of the life's true treasures. I look forward to giving my children the same experience I had the fortune to grow up with. In order for that to happen I encourage you to support the recommendations of Stehekin Heritage. These recommendations are summarized below:

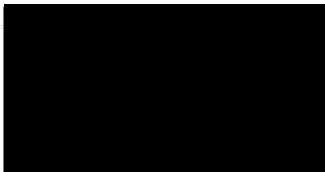
- **The National Park Service join Chelan County and conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.**
- **Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, that the NPS and Chelan County work to enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.**
- **The Land Protection Plan must state overtly in the overall objectives and goals that: It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.**
- **The NPS should continue to honor current land trade activity (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.**
- **Change all "acquisition" priorities to read "exchange" priorities. See section 5.2. LPP.**
- **Separate the SRCIP and the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river**

projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.

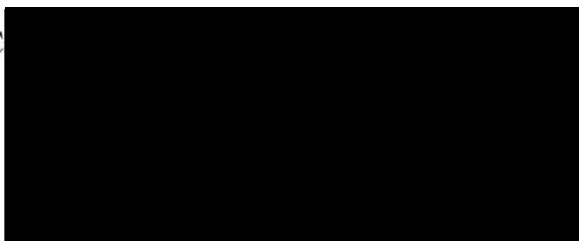
- If the goal of the NPS is to “trade” properties endangered by the river, “Let the River Decide” which pieces are most threatened and need prioritized, and trade only those vulnerable lands. Priority lists would be only for trading purposes. Land trades should be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their original piece with all property rights intact. Value is defined not only by dollar amount but also by potential uses of the original property.
- Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, to harm the road if allowed to erode.
- Remove appendix C – the Overlay District - from the plan.
- Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense, practical management philosophy that is consistent with enacting legislation, supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation. Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeping the road in its original alignment, protecting the road from river erosion, and improving visitor access.

I’m pleased the Park Service has involved the public in this process. I was encouraged when I met you at the Oct 21st Seattle meeting and you said the NPS uses public feedback to determine management policies. I’m confident the National Park Service will recognize the great importance of the Stehekin Community and agree that it deserves protection and sustainability going forward.

Sincerely,



CC



2-10-2011

Stoke Newington, 98852

Dear Chip:

I would like to respond to the "River Implementation / Road Plan" before us currently.

For the sake of ~~brief~~ keeping things brief I will only refer to those I am concerned about.

1) my cabin/home listed as highest priority for acquisition. My property has never been flooded! It is on the river and river's wander. But I take issue with this classification. The park is being for too aggressive in their listing of properties. I will not be a willing seller or be interested in a trade.

No to the road re route
1) maintain current road & protect access to a beautiful scenic drive & homes of my friends. Who wants to

drive way up the hill through trees with no view & danger of avalanche.

Yes to more barks -

Yes to the reinforcement by putting cribbing into road shed - not sure of terminology.

No to any new log jams.

Need to remove a bunch!

No to the boat launch/take out on what is the Stehekin River resort road. Suggest doing so at Stehekin landing or at the A-frame over off Silver Bay area, no land purchase required, no road changes, park owns land.

or have the raft take out up behind Carrie's house & Forkelson house.

-3-

Maintenance yard relocate I am not ^{going} to get into that battle but I want the park to stay in the garbage business ~~as~~ if it goes to a "private garbage provider" people will dump illegally & burn garbage.

Sorry I can not be at the 11-Feb. meeting as I am helping at Walden that weekend.

Thank You.



National Park Service
Attn: Superintendent Chip Jenkins
810 Washington St
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

February 10, 2011

Dear Sir:

I have been privileged to have visited the Stehekin Valley several times over the past 30 years. As a lover of Stehekin, I've been reviewing the Stehekin Heritage website and am quite concerned at the possible negative effects to that unique community which proposals by the NPS could cause.

Private property ownership is the foundation of any community. As you are well aware, we are guaranteed by our Constitution the right to be secure in our life, liberty, & property. Our government was instituted to protect and guarantee these rights, not to place them in any type of jeopardy.

I urge you, therefore, to join Chelan County and conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on this one-of-a-kind community. And, until this analysis is completed, a moratorium on federal purchases of private property should be instituted immediately for the impacted area.

Thank you for your time & attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



1. The first part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who were present at the meeting. The names are listed in alphabetical order.

2. The second part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who were present at the meeting. The names are listed in alphabetical order.

3. The third part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who were present at the meeting. The names are listed in alphabetical order.

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9. The ninth part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who were present at the meeting. The names are listed in alphabetical order.

10. The tenth part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who were present at the meeting. The names are listed in alphabetical order.

North Cascades NPS Complex
ATTN: SCRIP, 810 State Rt. 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

RE: NPS draft plans, SRCIP AND LPP

Superintendent Chip Jenkins:

I support the Stehekin community and their management positions presented by the Stehekin Heritage.

My Granddad [REDACTED] was one of the two men that brought the crank and holler phone line from Chelan to Stehekin. My Dad, [REDACTED] ran against Benton Bangs for Chelan County Commissioner about 1950 and lost. Benton Bangs gave the road to the US Forest Service which went to Cottonwood and Horseshoe Basin mine (about the time the Cottonwood to Horseshoe Basin road closed to a huge landslide.) The river stayed in the channel, property did not wash away, the road was not flooded, top soil was not washed down the river and out into the lake, fish returned to normal spawning grounds.

Curt Courtney, with his sawmill and other residents kept the logs from building up in the river. By salvaging timber for fuel, building materials were produced and the river stayed in the channel. About 1968 the NPS received parts of USFS lands, then came lots of employees, new rules/regulations, enforcement. We the citizens could no longer salvage logs from the river but had to get a permit for wood. We the people could not do what the old timers had done so successfully for so many years. Logs built up and after 20 + years, 100 year floods (not floods), the river was full of logs and had to change course, washing away property, flooding lowlands, washing out the road. Destroying fish habitat, sending silt into Lake Chelan.

With the pressure of the NPS to acquisition land, Dad traded 90+ acres of land on the river and a two story house (Skinny Wilson place) for a lot which was filled in for a building site on the lake. In the past our cabin and others on the lake were called an "eyesore". In this current LPP they are scored a "High" priority for potential acquisition. Why? How much land acquisition is enough? Will it ever stop?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

P.S. Trails. Should more trails be built? Has the trail from Prince Creek been open since the fire? A lot of people like that trail. I say no new trails, maintain the old ones first.

[REDACTED]



58

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

February 11, 2011

Palmer L. Jenkins
Superintendent
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284

Re: Comments on the Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan and
Environmental Impact Statement (EPA Project Number: 08-010-NPS)

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the National Park Service (NPS) **Draft Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (DSRCIP) and Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)** (CEQ # 20100356) on Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (LCNRA) of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex (NCNPKC) in Whatcom, Skagit and Chelan Counties, WA. We conducted our review in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The draft SRCIP/EIS evaluates potential environmental impacts of a proposal to implement management actions to address flooding and erosion threats to NPS facilities, private development, and natural resources within LCNRA. If implemented as proposed, this project would result in long-term sustainability of infrastructure and protection of resources in the planning area from flooding and erosion impacts. Analysis of potential impacts from the project considered four alternative actions (1-4), including a No Action. The NPS's *Preferred Alternative* is Alternative 2 under which there would be relocation and removal of public and private facilities out of the river floodplain, updates to the 1995 Land Protection Plan, and improvement of existing and construction of new recreation opportunities (rafting, camping, and hiking trails). Other activities would include closure of a shooting range, erosion control, and restoration.

EPA supports the goals of the proposed project, which are to protect public resources from flood and erosion risks and ensure persistent public enjoyment of park resources and values. We are particularly pleased with the management strategy of recovering much of the lower Stehekin River's natural floodplain dynamics and functions. This approach will likely yield multiple benefits for habitat, hydrology, and water quality. We also note with appreciation that the draft SRCIP/EIS addresses many of the issues we raised during the project scoping process in March 2008, and that NPS created an interdisciplinary committee to assist with technical and regulatory inputs on a range of issues analyzed in the EIS, especially mitigation measures to offset impacts of the project.

Based on our review of the draft SRCIP/EIS, we have no objections to the proposed project and have assigned a rating of LO (Lack of Objections) to the draft SRCIP/EIS. An explanation of this rating is enclosed. Overall, most impacts by the proposed project are expected to be beneficial. Road and facility construction activities will likely generate some adverse impacts to various resources including air, water and biological resources. We believe the DEIS effectively evaluates potential impacts and identifies suitable measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts. We offer the following comments as suggestions to enhance the final EIS.

Water quality and hydrology

The final SRCIP/EIS should include up to date information, as available, on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Clean Water Act §401 and 404 permit applications for the project.

We encourage NPS to consider use of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques where applicable in project activities because of their potential to reduce stormwater volumes and thus mimic natural conditions as closely as possible. Use of these techniques can also provide energy and other utility savings. There is some information about LID practices online at <http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/> and <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/stormwater.htm>.

Please correct the statement in the draft SRCIP/EIS that the project will require at least one nonpoint source discharge (NPDES) permit (p. 411). The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States.

Information in the draft SRCIP/EIS states that because of meeting tested standards for water quality, the Stehekin River is on Washington State's list of Category 1 water bodies (p. 181). If data are available, it would be useful to know the parameters tested and associated numeric water quality standards. That will make it easier for the reader to understand the level of potential impacts on water quality described in the SRCIP/EIS and implications for beneficial uses.

Climate change effects

We understand that the basic, underlying need for this project is adapting to hydrologic changes that have occurred as the local climate has changed. In our scoping comments on the project in March 2008, we recommended that the draft SRCIP/EIS discuss the effects of climate change on park resources and potential project impacts on climate change. EPA agrees that climate change modeling for the project is not necessary (p. 47). However, we believe that the final EIS would be enhanced by inclusion of a separate discussion on climate change in the region in terms of observed changes to date, expectations for the future, and how those relate to this project and associated park resources.

We note that the NPS has set up the Inventory and Monitoring Program to collect and analyze data to detect ecological changes associated with climate change. In addition, NPS is developing the landscape-scale dynamics project, or NPScape, to provide information about changes and trends in landscape indicators, including human population trends, road density and land cover. If the North Cascades National Park Service Complex engages in those efforts, it would be valuable to discuss data collected for that purpose and implications for the proposed project activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this draft SRCIP/EIS. If you have questions or comments concerning our review, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or Theo Mbabaliye of my staff at (206) 553-6322.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Reichgott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christine" being more prominent.

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit

Enclosures
EPA Rating System Criteria for EISs

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Rating System for
Draft Environmental Impact Statements
Definitions and Follow-Up Action***

Environmental Impact of the Action

LO – Lack of Objections

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

EC – Environmental Concerns

EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce these impacts.

EO – Environmental Objections

EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no-action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EU – Environmentally Unsatisfactory

EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potential unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

Category 1 – Adequate

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis of data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

Category 2 – Insufficient Information

The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

Category 3 – Inadequate

EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act and or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.

* From EPA Manual 1640 Policy and Procedures for the Review of Federal Actions Impacting the Environment, February, 1987.

Stehekin Heritage

Response:

Draft Land Protection Plan (LPP) and Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan (SRCIP)

February 11, 2011

Stehekin Heritage Subcommittee:

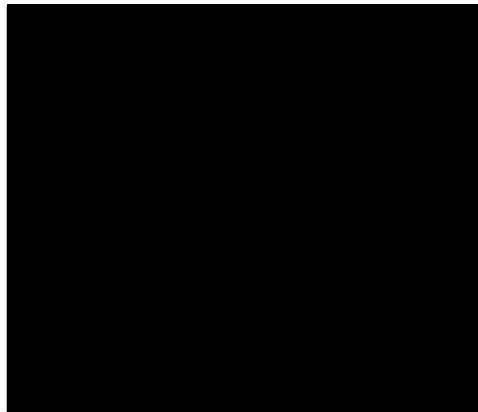


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Stehekin Heritage

PO Box 1

Stehekin, WA 98852

February 11th, 2011

Superintendent Jenkins:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft Land Protection (LPP) and River Management (SRCIP) plans. Both plans fulfill certain requirements of an Environmental Impact Statement. Unfortunately, neither plan provides data or dialogue clearly examining the impacts of planning recommendations on the social, cultural and economic life of the Stehekin Community. Stehekin Heritage concurs with Terry Lavender, a thoughtful conservationist, who wrote you recently stating:

“An environmental impact statement is supposed to consider physical, biological, social and economic factors. Whether or not a community survives depends on a critical mass and has huge social, historic and economic consequences if it fails. None of these are discussed in this document.

*Rural communities face many obstacles to survival. This is a community that currently serves the overall goal of providing visitor services to public land within a National Recreation Area. Recreational access is the reason the public supported the creation of the National Recreation Area. **This is an incomplete and flawed document. It has studied an issue and proposed a solution that if implemented as stated will fail to meet two of three goals on which it is to be based (Emphasis added).** It does not address the social and economic consequences of implementation and should be revisited.”*

The National Park Service draft plans and EIS are currently inadequate. Neither draft plan addresses the impacts of continued land acquisition on Stehekin's community from a socio-economic or socio-cultural perspective. Because neither plan provides sufficient analysis concerning the impacts of continued land acquisition, Stehekin Heritage petitions the Park Service to:

1. Cooperate with Chelan County to conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request the NPS support Chelan County and work to enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.

Thank you,

Ron Scutt,
President Stehekin Heritage

Stehekin Socio-Economic Foundation

No Further Net Loss of Private Land Base Value

Our goal is to preserve and protect what remaining private lands exist in Stehekin and call for "No further net loss of private land base value." We champion the cause that all pertinent governing agencies recognize, adopt and support this principle, thereby displaying support for the future of the private community within Stehekin, by assuring permanence of our land base.

In order for Stehekin to sustain a unique and valuable private community into the future, the security and permanence of the valley's current private land base is critical.

The value of Stehekin's private community has been proven over time, and was noteworthy enough to be set aside in legislation, and preferred by the visiting public. Since 1968, the private land base within the valley has been reduced by seventy five percent, affecting the future character of Stehekin. With lands being removed from private ownership without limitation, we are at a critical point in time as to whether the value and a one-of-a-kind culture can continue.

There are:

417.74 remaining private acres

1700 original private acres totaling a 75% reduction in private lands

62,000 surrounding acres of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area

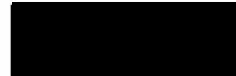
The recommendations included in this draft LPP/RCIP response are presented with the intention to support management policies that will sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community.

1. EIS Social/Economic Consequences Insufficiently Defined

Concerning the Effects of Continued Land Acquisition on the Stehekin Community

“An environmental impact statement is supposed to consider physical, biological, social and economic factors. Whether or not a community survives depends on a critical mass and has huge social, historic and economic consequences if it fails. None of these are discussed in this document.

Rural communities face many obstacles to survival. This is a community that currently serves the overall goal of providing visitor services to public land within a National Recreation Area. Recreational access is the reason the public supported the creation of the National Recreation Area. This is an incomplete and flawed document. It has studied an issue and proposed a solution that if implemented as stated will fail to meet two of three goals on which it is to be based. It does not address the social and economic consequences of implementation and should be revisited.”



2. Socio-Cultural and Socio-Economic Confusion EIS Impact of Land Acquisition

**Statement by Kim Scutt
Public meeting in Stehekin~01/10/11**

As a long time resident, property and business owner, I was interested in the thrust of the two planning documents as they pertain to proposed Land Acquisition policies by the NPS.

I was especially interested to see how the NPS evaluated the effects of their continued land acquisition on the Stehekin Community from a socioeconomic viewpoint. Both planning documents contain information concerning the effects of land acquisition on the community.

The SCRIP document addressed the importance of performing a Socio-economic impact analysis relative to gateway communities.

The LPP refers to the socio-cultural impact of Land Acquisition practices on the private community.

The SRCIP addresses the effects of land acquisition in the following manner: pg. 367-The socio-economic impact analysis states, "Additional negligible effects would result from changes in population related to acquisition of private lands in Stehekin."

The LPP references socio-cultural effects of Land Acquisition. Here it states, "Acquisition has the greatest potential for significant change in the lives of individuals or in the composition of the community."

Negligible effect...significant effect..... I suggest a disconnect...?

My purpose in citing this language is to illustrate this disconnect. The fact is that the NPS has yet to develop a congruent and clear understanding with our community and the public as to how to go about identifying and addressing the effects of this acquisition policy on the private community.

Throughout our subcommittee meetings, we have discussed the effects of land acquisition. We are making a serious effort to respond to the current draft plans in a manner that will clearly articulate our perception of the effects of continued land acquisition in the Stehekin Valley.

3. Private Land is Vital to Our Existence as a Community ~ For the Present and the Future

**Statement by Liz Courtney ~
Public meeting in Stehekin~01/10/11**

Hello Chip, Jon and staff,

I know there has been a tremendous amount of work done and we have much more to do. No one likes to be at odds but the LPP puts us there.

I understand the reasoning, as it was explained, that the LPP was used as an avenue or tool that made land trades more possible.

However, the LPP or Land Acquisition Plan, as it was first called years ago, is at odds with the future of our community.

Land acquisition, left unchecked is much like a flooding river that is undercutting the bank. Slowly, if left unchecked, it washes away the foundation of our community. Land acquisition is and will continue to eat away at our foundation if not put in perspective and stopped.

If the LPP is the only vehicle for Land Trade that has been explored, then it is time to go back to work.

Let us work with you and your staff, and Chelan County towards the security of our community rather than the undercutting by land acquisition. To us, every piece of private property left is essential.

Guaranteeing no further loss of land is essential.

Here are some areas that need addressed that we are willing to work on together:

1. Because all our properties are now on a priority list, and we all fall into the CMZ zone, every piece of land is eligible for trade. But the killer is, it is also eligible for purchase. Every piece is then left vulnerable to changes in staff, priorities and political climates.

We are adamantly opposed to any further land acquisition. Emphasis in your plans should use only land trades and creative solutions and only in the case of hardship caused by the river. "Let the river decide" which parcels are high priority. The river will change and so will those parcels in harm's way. This needs a more thorough discussion.

2. NPS has been willing to pay high prices, possibly above market value and possibly above what would be considered reasonable. This affects the level of our property taxes, as well as driving up the costs of successive land purchase as owners know they can ask a

high price. This also drives up the market price of other parcels. This needs a more thorough discussion.

3. Land trade is a good solution if property rights and net value are transferred equally to the new piece. Net loss of private land value cannot be lost in the transaction.

4. We understand that there are those that would feel property should be sold or donated only to the park for preservation purposes. We are discussing avenues that this could still happen with no net loss of the amount of private land we have now.

5. Loss of this community in any form be it property, character or ability to serve the public from private land is in direct opposition to enabling legislation. Use this argument to support a new approach to supporting our land base and helping are future be secure.

We feel strongly enough about this issue as to begin discussion with the County asking for an immediate moratorium on NPS land purchase to be put into effect until the affect of land acquisition on our community has been fully realized and investigated.

Let's be creative with these types of scenarios to find workable solutions in place of acquisition and realize that any further land acquisition undercuts our community base to its detriment.

We look forward to working with the NPS cooperatively on resolving these important issues.

SERVICES AND SEASONAL CARE REMAINS. THIS piece is the only area that private business takes place in the entire Landing area. This piece of land was and is crucial to the Stehekin Community's existence and provides opportunity that would otherwise not be available.

5. "No Net Loss of Private Land Base Value"

Language that Should be Embedded in both Draft Plans and the EIS

1. Private Property is Essential for Stehekin's Future

Any further purchase of private land by the NPS is destructive to the future of the Stehekin Community. The private land base has all ready been reduced by seventy-six percent of original private acreage in the surrounding 62,000 acres of the designated LCNRA. The original community in 1967 had a total of 1620.58 acres. A community cannot survive or invest in the future with continual reduction of land base and value. NPS purchase poses an imminent threat to Stehekin's viable future.

The current planning efforts do not objectively define the value of private property as it relates to the Stehekin Community.

2. There are **no limitations** cited in the LPP or any NPS policies regarding how much land in Stehekin will be purchased by the NPS over time. In fact, the Current Draft LPP lists all properties except 4.7 acres as desirable for their ownership.

3. Before the Land Protection Plan is finalized, it is **essential** that the NPS acknowledge and identify the effects of land acquisition upon the community of Stehekin in a far more comprehensive and in-depth manner than is currently available in the Draft Land Protection Plan.

We are currently discussing the concept with Chelan County to find the most applicable avenue for this investigation and how land acquisition affects:

- Stehekin's community/culture (historical and current)
- Stehekin citizens' opportunities to create future businesses, investment security, residential security and community life.
- The human interest currently available to the visiting public: Local, authentic interpretation of history, homes and defining characteristics of mountain life.
- Effects of NPS land acquisition on land prices, taxes and other economic considerations from 1968 to the present.

4. Any further reduction of the Private Land Base by NPS purchase in Stehekin **creates a deficit** which we believe violates **Congressional intention** when passing PL 90-544. This legislation spoke of the value, character and importance of the Stehekin Community. Legislators listened to public testimony and removed Stehekin and the LCNRA from the North Cascades National Park in 1967 and set aside this area for national recognition and the specific purpose to preserve the unique character of the Stehekin Community. Senate Report 700 is cited below:

SENATE REPORT 700: Senate Report speaks specifically to the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (LCNRA). On pages 30 and 31 under "Boundary Changes" (Here the reasons for placing Stehekin in the LCNRA rather than the National Park are listed.) "Designate the lower Stehekin Valley and upper Lake Chelan areas the Lake Chelan National Recreation area instead of a part of the park. **Many of the yearlong residents of the Stehekin Valley are descendants of the original homesteaders. Some 1700 acres, mostly on the valley floor are in private ownership, and in the past several decades a number of summer homes have been built....**The lake...will serve as the primary access for park and recreation visitors approaching from the southeast. **The village and the lower valley, therefore, will have considerable use, and development to accommodate these visitors will be necessary....All of these factors were important in the committee's decision to create a 62,000 acre recreation area here, instead of giving the area national park status."** (Emphasis added).

5. Stehekin residents living on private land **provide the following services** for the visiting public, valley residents and the National Park Service, historically and currently, creating a **quality experience** hosted by an authentic mountain community:

- Overnight tourist facilities: quality experience with local rental cabins located throughout the valley and along the shore of Lake Chelan, Stehekin Valley Ranch providing beautiful up-valley location, and private homes where visiting families stay
- Quality world-class bakery, nationally recognized and a highly anticipated renewal spot for Pacific Crest Trail hikers
- Recreational opportunity providers: horseback riding, kayaking, fishing guide, rafting, horse-supported pack trips
- Service providers/private businesses: freight, construction, heavy equipment, boat transportation, bike rentals
- Historical enhancement: Stehekin Choice writings, private authors, private family documents and photos, homesteading history
- Interpretation of the Valley: including authors, art, tours
- Human interest for the visitor: people surviving in the mountains is interesting to all
- Artistry: many venues – photography, painting, graphic artists, woodworking, fabric artists.-local creations available to the visiting public through “The House That Jack Built”
- Pioneer skills that blend with the valley history: woodworking, leather work, blacksmith skills, horseshoeing, archery
- Gardening as representing survival and enhancing the area with beauty and practicality-nearly every home has one
- Emergency intelligence and help: knowledge of the area in search-and-rescue, in fire situations and floods
- Survival skills as examples of a lifestyle gone by: isolated from urban life, living close to nature, value to the rest of the country as a reminder of our ties to the past

- Hunting –pack animals and packers provide access to high-country hunting
- Saving money through contracts with local residents-more cost effective

Overall, Stehekin is a **unique community** and dwelling place due to its location in the mountains, isolation, history of pioneer families, seasonal beauty, and the mountain-lifestyle's influence upon people's lives. The visiting public enjoys the difference of this culture that is recognized in enacting legislation. NPS management philosophy as expressed in the LPP should specifically include the value of these services to the NPS, the visiting public and the Stehekin Community.

Any further reduction of private lands directly affects the opportunities for similar, creative and diverse experiences for the visiting public. "No net loss of private land value" supports the unique, creative and positive value of the Stehekin Community and serves the public interest.

6. Elements that support and protect the private community now and into the future dependent on private land base:

On a Local Level

- Private Land Base (foremost and imperative)
- Commerce-the ability to make a living
- Location and ability to gather-bakery, post office, community hall, church
- School property and building
- Resources (water, sand, rock, gravel, timber)
- Roadway and Access, Airstrip, Trails
- Transportation up the lake (Boats and barges)
- Private Local Service providers: Carpenters, Heavy Equipment, Freight Barge, Fuel, Well Drillers,
- Power Supplier (Chelan County PUD)
- Communication with Emergency Help (Sheriff, medi-vac)

On a Cultural Level

- Families that wish to stay and reside here, committing time here now and into the future, wanting to raise children here
- The determination to live this lifestyle
- Love of Stehekin~ pride of place and people's strong relationships
- A unique one room school and excellent program
- Individuals tied to the past through pioneering generations
- Stehekin Heritage
- Stehekin Choice (online newspaper)
- Social Events~ Trillium Festival, Summer Music Weekend, Spinning Rendezvous, School Events (graduations), Christmas singing, Choir, Church Events, horse shows, scouting, archery shoots, Mother's Day picnics

In Summary - “No net loss of private land base value” is essential for these reasons:

1. Stehekin is a valuable community for visitors, residents and the NPS.
2. Legislation set aside the LCNRA largely due to the existence of the Stehekin Community
3. Security, investment and family life into the future depend on a healthy, viable community which can only exist on private lands.

We ask the NPS to:

1. State overtly in your overall objectives and goals that your goal is to preserve and support an active vibrant community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to the visitor appreciation and use of the LCNRA.
2. End land acquisition in the Stehekin Valley due to detrimental effects on the Stehekin Community and consider creative and futuristic land exchange concepts that support “No net loss of private land base value.”
3. Use enabling Legislation as a tool to support these actions (1 and 2)
4. Halt land acquisition immediately until an investigation is complete concerning the affects of Land acquisition upon the Stehekin Community.

6. Draft Plans and EIS – Incongruent with Enabling Legislation LPP and the CMZ Flawed Land Acquisition Priorities

**Statement by Cliff Courtney
Public meeting in Stehekin ~ 01/10/11**

It was through a long process of failed bills, contention and compromise that we ended up with our enabling legislation which is public law 90-544. One of the main reasons this area was taken out of the park proper and put in to a NRA was because of the Stehekin Community and the desire for a wider range of recreational opportunities that are not allowed in a NP. After the passing of 90-544 and the subsequent occupation by the NPS two main topics have been at the forefront. These two areas of much debate have been:

1. What are the compatible uses and activities in an NRA?
2. How much property should the NPS acquire or otherwise consume before the community that congress sought to protect would no longer resemble the character and value that was recognized at that time of the act?

While I appreciate the spirit of cooperation and partnership that we may be enjoying today, we must not settle for language that will be detrimental to our community in the future. This document is essentially a contract and every word has meaning. The one clause in our enabling legislation (PL 90-544) that has been the salvation of our community over the years is the clause that reads in partthe Secretary may not acquire any such interests within the recreation areas without the consent of the owner, so long as the lands are devoted to uses compatible with the purposes of this Act. It is my opinion that the only reason we are here today representing a community at all is because congress, in its wisdom included this clause. A Land Protection plan delineates what is and is not considered compatible and if the wording is left as is in this LPP it will have devastating affects upon our community. An example of this is to first identify a vast majority of the valley as part of the CMZ and then to state that any building with in that zone would subject the owner of the property to a determination that the use the property is being put to is incompatible. This is what this plan currently does in section 3.4.4.

The matrix used on page 58 to determine which property to target for acquisition is both assailable in the light of congressional intent and detrimental to the community. By your own admission this matrix leaves a scant 4.75 acres that remain out of the high or medium priority for acquisition. This is particularly repugnant when you use the following statement in section 5.2, "The number of low priority tracts was reduced substantially, reflecting the more severe flood conditions". The fact is that only three of the nine factors have anything to do with flooding.

In order to soften the blow of the above determinations we have been assured that just because the plan says that property is identified as high priority does not mean the NPS will seek to actually move to acquire or protect the property. There is absolutely no trust that future administrators will be so benevolent. One should also consider that at any time

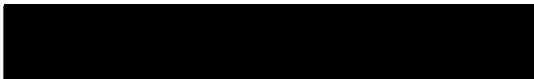
Congress could choose to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund or allocate other funding for acquisition of private property within federal areas and plans like the LPP will be exactly what they will use for priority targets.

I am a supporter of the exchange program and much credit needs to be given for including this option for those folks who are in the bite of the line of the Stehekin River. There are several factors, however, that need to be addressed:

- The inventory that you have identified for possible exchange is woefully inadequate when compared to the number of acres you have identified as high priority for protection.
- The criteria for determining which property would be prioritized are skewed and fail to properly put those properties in the forefront that are currently in imminent danger.
- It is of utmost importance that once properties are exchanged that the property that remains in private hands be left with adequate development potential to fulfill the uses Congress identified as being essential or allowed

The dramatic flood event of 2003, which may never be duplicated even in 1000 years, destroyed three summer homes and one cabin that was built for summer use but that was being used on a year around basis. That damage was regrettable but when you compare the impact on our community of the recent floods compared to what this plan would do, the river seems like a much-preferred adversary. Having said that I believe there are a number of positive actions proposed by the actual river management portion of the proposal. Much of the contention and trepidation comes from the LPP portion of your planning. I propose we separate the two documents. It seems to be the position of the NPS that all of the actions proposed are currently within the scope of the current GMP.

Let us work together to identify quickly the actions that are proposed for actual river management and then let's agree to extend the timetable that involves reworking the LPP. During this latter process we can hopefully agree on a plan that leaves the community intact and alleviates the detrimental impacts of the river at the same time.



7. Notes Concerning Nine Priority Criteria

Difference between 1995 LPP and Draft LPP 2010

Growth of Priority List

We are told that much of the LPP is brought forward from the 1995 LPP, however, the 1995 plan does not have this extensive criteria list. If nothing else, the CMZ zone has been added to the floodplain zone included in the 95 plan. (See page 20, 3.4.4 section 2.) The result is a new zone that covers virtually all the valley floor.

Problems w/ Criteria List

- Instead of listing criteria, simply make land trades as river dictates. Property that is being eroded and most threatened provides high priority.
- NPS has proprietary jurisdiction to manage their own land, however, the criteria used in this LPP are beyond their scope of their jurisdiction as it applies to private property.
- LPP is not a river management plan; it is an acquisition and zoning plan
- If the NPS is going to use the CMZ as an area where no development can take place, then they need to vastly expand the number of properties that can be traded.
- When considering all of the nine criteria for land acquisition the NPS will never have enough land to trade without expanding beyond the lands purchased using Land and Water Conservation Funds.
- Currently there are only 4.7 acres established as Low priority for potential acquisition. Viewed from the perspective of perpetuating a viable community, the language of the LPP is unacceptable.
- If land on the valley floor is truly going to be consumed by the river according to NPS projections, NPS criteria reduced the amount of land available for trade.
- NPS has stated that “things have changed considerably” enough to merit new plans. They raised the issues. They need to provide the community with options for future land base.

Problems with Criteria Specifically CMZ Zone:

- Data quantified since 1925. Basing the CMZ boundaries on a 1000 year projection is as much conjecture as it is science.
- CMZ zone seems based on Global Warming Trends.
- If the NPS is going to use the CMZ as an area where no development can take place, then they need to vastly expand the number of properties that can be traded.
- Criteria number 8 shows absolute bias against the value of private development and community life in the Stehekin Valley. Shows no recognition of Stehekin’s unique legislative history and legislation.
- Rest of criteria list is outside of “River Management” using areas that do not apply to the river.

Criticism of Philosophies and Management in Proposed Plans:

General Remarks:

- The NPS communicates that changes in the LPP are necessary for land trades and that the NPS goal is not to endanger the community. The oral promises by the NPS are not supported by specific language in the LPP. In fact, specific language would enable the acquisition of all but 4.75 acres of private property.
- If NPS really means to trade, they should have as many acres open for trade as they do on their priority lists. This is a good reason to reduce high priority category to only parcels that are immediately threatened, and landowners have expressed interest in trading. All other criteria appear as an agenda
- If land on the valley floor is truly going to be consumed by the river according to NPS projections, NPS criteria reduced the amount of land available for trade.
- **Instead of listing criteria, simply make land trades as river dictates. Property that is being eroded and most threatened provides high priority.**
- Criteria Table represents an agenda if NPS is interested in ALL lands but 7.4 acres.
- Reduction of private property along river reduces number of neighbors to work together with for bank hardening or pro-active protection
- These plans and their acquisition priorities and goals are far more detrimental to community than any flood damage
- There is no guarantee that next administration will use these plans in the same manner, intent or good will philosophy. Can NPS add to their plans guarantee and support of our community, even no net loss of private land base value?
- NPS has stated that “things have changed considerably” enough to merit new plans. They raised the issues. They need to provide the community with options for future land base.
- Instead of listing criteria, simply make land trades as river dictates. Property that is being eroded and most threatened provides high priority.

QUESTIONS:

1. Is this valley possibly too narrow to be managed using a CMZ zone? (Especially if all private acreage but 4.7 acres comes under some kind of criteria)
2. Is LPP only avenue for River Management? Is the tying of the two together perhaps a futile or dubious avenue?

8. Potential Consequences of Rerouting the Stehekin Valley Road

Statement by Mark Courtney Public meeting in Stehekin~1/10/11

The NPS's preferred alternative includes rerouting segments of the road between mile 5.7 to mile 7.5.

The opposition to the preferred alternative is based on the following points:

- Moving the road would take away a significant (and presently the ONLY) defense of private property against erosion by the river on public land
- [Protected road banks as seen along the Entiat and Wenatchee rivers, and Mission, Nason, Icicle, and Peshastin creeks and many others are examples of stable roadways and best access corridors.]
- If the road is moved, massive amounts of woody debris, silt, sand and gravel would be washed into the river. This deposit would further elevate the river bed and increase the size and number of log jams - the outcome of which could likely be catastrophic damage downriver to roads, utilities, bridges, residences, campgrounds and historic sites, resulting in continued expense and disruption to the community of Stehekin
- If the road is moved, much of the historic wagon road would be obliterated, and an important link to Stehekin's history would be lost
- The proposed reroute is in an area that has been a major migration route for deer, elk, cougar and all migratory animals. The area is also a winter-feeding area during mild winters
- The preferred alternative does not adequately address the safety issue of the building of a road at the foot of a very steep, unstable, hillside. A road moved from the valley floor, closer to the hillside will increase the potential for damage from snow slides in winter, and dirt and rock debris washing down during summertime "gully washers". Aside from the potential hazard to travelers the maintenance of such a road will be costly.

Specification Issues:

The specifications for **all** the alternatives need to be examined. The NPS favors the following: "[pave and reduce] to a single-lane (12 - 14 feet wide) with pullouts that would be visible from both directions (18 feet wide; 30 - 35 feet long) [the road between Harlequin Bridge and 9-mile] (NPS 1995a:33)" (Page 29 of DEIS).

Which I believe the County would address thusly:

The following is a quote from a retired County road engineer referring to the development of an intervisible single lane road. "*Chelan County has looked at this approach through the years and has not used it as an alternative, nor does it allow developers to use it. Some of the adverse aspects of single lane intervisible turnout roads*

are: Too many signs required (by the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices), extra construction costs to develop turnout sections, potential liability, traffic does not stop or wait at turnouts. I would advise against the adoption of the single lane intervisible turnout roadway."

An example of how those road specifications work in practice are the recent reroutes along the Stehekin road. There are blind corners, steep hills, dangerous shoulders - and a roadway that is difficult to use and maintain in winter

The NPS plan is a shift to a one-way narrow road (from Harlequin Bridge to High Bridge) that creates significant challenges for all users

The NPS shuttle buses that run on a mandated schedule --four months of the year, four times a day from the landing to High Bridge-- would be unable to pass with the specifications that are preferred by the NPS

The **diminishing** private property acreage within the Stehekin Valley is a serious threat to the viability of the Stehekin Community at present, *and* for future generations. We believe that the private property base of the Stehekin Community is worth protecting, and leaving the road where it is offers some protection for private property. Therefore, we favor the present alignment of the Stehekin Road. The NPS is allowed to take measures to protect the road against erosion by the river.

In summary, I have observed from living my life in Stehekin that one of the big draws to this area is the unique Stehekin Community. Families from all parts of the country have made huge sacrifices to be a part of this community.

My grandchildren, Ray and McKenna, are the 6th generation of our family to live in the upper Lake Chelan Valley - my great-grandparents settled at Moore Point in 1890. A community in the Stehekin valley is part of my heritage, and the heritage of my children and grandchildren. Times change, and there are many challenges to families and communities now that didn't exist 120 years ago, but if these NPS plans are enacted they would be much more than a challenge to this community, I believe they will put an **end** to the private community of Stehekin. I believe this Community is worth preserving - as living and vibrant.

I, therefore, request that the NPS support the Stehekin Community and Chelan County in enacting an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley until an investigation can be done to evaluate how much property is necessary to maintain a viable, healthy community.

9. Facilities

Maintenance/Housing and Community Culture Effects

Stehekin Heritage supports removing the facilities section from all SRCIP alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

Stehekin Heritage did not initially comment on the "Facilities" element of the planning documents in that we recognize that the NPS is entirely responsible for developing maintenance and housing facilities for federal employees. As word of our review of planning documents traveled through the community many individuals approached us relating their concerns about the development of the maintenance/housing complex suggested by the NPS in all the draft alternatives.

We understand this facility was originally proposed in the 1995 General Management Plan but hoped this ill conceived idea would never be considered in the current planning effort. Why do we consider the current Facilities section of the SRCIP to be ill conceived?

1. To the greatest extent possible, the proposed Maintenance/Housing complex should not be developed on property purchased with Land and Water Conservation funds. Because of the difficulty identifying property for exchange (currently, there are only 24 (check) acres available for exchange) the maintenance/housing facilities should *not* be placed upon property that could otherwise be exchanged.

2. Stehekin Heritage recommends that maintenance and housing facilities be separate, clearly differentiated projects.

Stehekin Heritage understands the rationale for building maintenance facilities outside the floodplain as an integrated unit that includes maintenance buildings, a solid waste facility and fire cache. These elements of valley maintenance and protection may well be placed together with obvious advantages, however, we believe the recommendation to house federal employees in a compound or multi-family housing facility is insensitive to NPS employees and the community culture that exists in the Stehekin Valley.

Currently, NPS employee housing is integrated throughout the valley, therefore NPS employees and families are assimilated interwoven throughout the valley as neighbors with valley residents residing on private property. This integrated living pattern creates the positive sense of community we experience in the valley.

Unfortunately, while the assimilation of NPS employees throughout the valley has positive community value, NPS administrators seem determined to support building a housing complex where federal employees will be placed in a multi-unit compound isolated from most valley residents. This is a perilous policy for an area where the relationship between the NPS and community is unique and requires amalgamation rather than isolation.

We realize a combined maintenance, solid waste, fire fighting, residence complex may be administratively advantageous from several perspectives (listed on page 351, 89-90, 361-62) for many Park Service administered areas, however, if the management goal of the NPS is to cluster NPS employees and families into a housing complex separating them from the rest of the community, this represents a vast change in Stehekin's culture of integrated housing for federal employees and is entirely inappropriate management policy for the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and should be terminated immediately.

Furthermore, there are compatibility issues embedded in the suggested Maintenance/Housing element of the draft plans. We challenge both the desirability and the legality of locating all of these uses on a single piece of property given Chelan County Zoning and the mandates of the Washington State Growth Management Act.

Page 90 of the draft SRCIP states, "Relocate/Construct Park Housing: Implement the GMP action to relocate housing threatened by flooding and **construct new seasonal and permanent housing at the north end of the airstrip, in conjunction with the maintenance area on about 5-8 acres. Up to 11 housing units could be constructed** (emphasis added).... Future site planning would identify building locations and footprints and would be subject to additional environmental analysis."

If a private property owner of 5-8 acres located out of the floodway suggested constructing a building complex that included a large maintenance shop and accompanying maintenance buildings, a fuel facility, dormitory, a solid waste management center and up to an eleven unit housing complex (could be considered "condominiums") on his or her 5-8 acres. We are curious as to how the NPS and the environmental community would respond.

We do know that if the current managers continue to embrace this idea and build the complex referenced in all four alternatives the NPS will be, by their actions, defining compatible development in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

We are aware that the construction of a maintenance/housing facility was included in the 1995 GMP, however, the community has received no clearly articulated set of alternatives, no detailed economic analysis or pertinent data to review concerning these plans. The draft SRCIP states there is little data included concerning the maintenance/housing development plans. Furthermore, the draft plan states that planning documents will be written and distributed to the public at a future date. Stehekin Heritage supports removing the facilities section from all alternatives until a clearly articulated philosophy and alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

We have questions concerning the facilities element of the planning documents:

- Has the NPS polled current local employees to ascertain their thoughts concerning the development of the maintenance/housing facilities before developing or issuing the SRCIP and LPP and the facilities plan? If so, we would like to review that data.
- This new facility could threaten the continued use of the airstrip, as those living within the complex could consider the noise of incoming and outgoing aircraft a

nuisance or safety issue. We ask if the NPS has contacted the State concerning the planned maintenance and housing development so close to the Stehekin Airstrip? We would like to review any data from the NPS has received from the state as concerning to this issue any effects upon airstrip.

- If the housing complex were completed, most NPS employees would be centralized in one area. In the event of an emergency all NPS resources (including radios) will be concentrated in one area, reducing the ability of the NPS to respond (especially if the river is flooding over Company Creek Road). Has the NPS addressed the question of radio availability throughout the community at times of emergency?
- We have seen no official plans for the maintenance/housing complex. The SRCIP leads us to believe that the public will receive more detailed information concerning the configuration of the maintenance and housing units in upcoming planning documents. Has the NPS produced a development concept plan for the maintenance and housing facilities at this point in time? If so, Stehekin Heritage requests these plans to be sent to us so we can review them before any further planning documents are created for the maintenance/housing facilities.
- We are concerned about the cost of the maintenance/housing facility. We believe the estimated cost of the complex will be between \$12,000,000 and \$14,000,000. We are concerned about the amount of money budgeted to complete such a project. Hopefully, future plans will include a more itemized budgetary analysis of the project. If the figure of twelve to fourteen million dollars is one the NPS has estimated at the present time, we request you send the generalized proposed budget for our review.

What is your vision for the valley?

We also have the following concerns and comments that need addressed before adoption of any new plans. Since 1968 the NPS has operated on the assumption that the private businesses at the Stehekin Landing should be publicly owned, that numerous existing structures be purchased along with 75% of all private property, that standing NPS crews would largely replace contracting, that the transportation system would be nationalized, that a full gamut of rolling stock and heavy equipment would be purchased and maintained, the NPS would expand law enforcement personnel instead of using county law enforcement and would take over the road from the county and solid waste facilities would be operated by the NPS as well. The cumulative effect of all of these decisions was and is enormous. It was also an extreme departure from how the USFS managed the area even though hearings indicated that little would change and that the NPS would have little need of purchasing any additional property for administrative use.

Because of the above departures in management from those the USFS employed there is now a need for maintenance crews and housing, housing for resort employees, a facility for solid waste collection and recycling, a need for storage and maintenance facilities for heavy equipment and rolling stock, the need for a fuel facility, and housing needs for numerous law enforcement and interpretive staff.

The socio-economic impacts of the totality of NPS administration must be investigated and alternatives ways to accomplish the above stated tasks need to be considered. Examples of alternative solutions could include: Selling back property and business as was recommended by the GAO to private interests, returning the transportation system to private hands, encouraging privatization of solid waste collection and facilities in conjunction with Chelan County responsibility and contracting NPS disposal needs to this company, Contracting maintenance for the road, facilities, lakeshore erosion and dock maintenance, trails, and campgrounds to companies that already have tools and machinery that is duplicated by the NPS for no apparent reason other than to build an empire. If and when any or all of these ideas are pursued then it is obvious the NPS will have less need for this enormous (half of the square footage of the average Wal-Mart) and expensive expansion

Of great concern also is the concern that the NPS will “cut and run” in much the same way you are doing by abandoning stretches of road and moving to higher ground. Certainly there are isolated cases where this is necessary but to do it as a matter of policy is once again being a bad neighbor. Abandoning areas such as the strip of houses (that were formerly private) above Harlequin Bridge will not only allow new material in to the river but will also jeopardize the road, the bridge, and other private property owners. The right answer is to figure out a solution to protect this area and the existing housing and infrastructure. It is arguable that the cost to obliterate these structures and to restore the sites would be more than enough funds to remodel these units and thereby eliminate the need for new housing at a much lesser cost.

Other concerns with this proposal are that this facility will have negative impact on private property owners in the area and that housing in proximity to our one and only airstrip will only put more pressure on closing the strip for private or commercial traffic because of noise, dust and safety issues. It is also apparent that if the valley trail is built or if the road is relocated at the Lower Field area then the best siting for a firing range is behind the airport and housing in close proximity is not desirable.

10. Stehekin Heritage Alternative 5

Focus	Alternative 5	Reason
<p>Management concept / working title</p>	<p>Manage LCNRA under the original intent of congress with Preservation of Private land, the historic community of Stehekin, public access, and recreation being the priority.</p>	<p>Alternatives 2-4 talk about implementing a CMZ with the intent that all private lands in the CMZ would be moved or purchased. This amounts to about 70% of private land and most of the private businesses in the valley. Alternative 1 is no better as it does not follow the original intent of congress or the findings of the 1981 GAO Report, Lands in Lake Chelan National Recreation Area should be returned to Private ownership. The current policies of the NPS seem to be to acquire land and manage the LCNRA as if it were a National Park. It is clear that in both the founding legislation and the GAO report - LCNRA was to be preserved as a community with private land holdings, and that public lands were to be managed for the purpose of access, recreation, and preservation of the historic community of Stehekin.</p>
<p>Floodplain and Land use concept</p>	<p>Large floods would continue to be constricted by development in the floodplain. The Stehekin Valley Road would be retained in its current alignment, with the grade raised through McGregor Meadows. Because of the road grade raise, water from large floods would be restricted from some of the floodplain. There would continue to be a potential for new</p>	<p>We find that all through this plan, including alternative 1-4, that the preservation of the Stehekin community and public recreation are not the priority, and that the CMZ is being used as a tool to make a case for land acquisition in alternatives 2-4. In alternative 1 many of the good improvements are completely left out.</p>

	<p>development on all private property.</p> <p>Land trades would be a priority in flood prone areas, with highest priority being lands most at risk</p> <p>Erosion protection measures would be implemented at seven sites, including those identified in Alternative 3, plus at Milepost 7.0 and 9.2.</p> <p>Other sites would be added as needed.</p>	<p>These proposals also use the revision of the LLP to further restrict private property rights.</p>
<p>Land acquisition and exchange concept /LPP</p>	<p>Land trades would be made available on a basis of most at risk to least risk, under a policy of no net loss of existing land base or private property value. Exchange must allow reasonable use and development according to local standards and compatible with the intent of Congress in SR 700.</p>	<p>The GAO report clearly states that there should be no further purchase of private property -and, in fact lands should be returned to private ownership. We support land trade in some sensitive areas along the river with a no net loss of land base or land value. The NPS Alternatives do not follow the original intent of congress or the GAO report.</p>
<p>Response to flooding and erosion</p>	<p>As needed, the NPS would continue case-by-case response to flood-related damage affecting public facilities. Private landowners with development in the flood plane would continue to be responsible to self-implement flood protection measures. NPS should coordinate with Chelan County to protect private property <i>from flooding</i> (where an exchange is not viable). Road through McGregor Meadows would be elevated.</p>	<p>Alternatives 1-4 effectively abandon private property in the proposed CMZ to be flooded, with no long term flood prevention measure being taken.</p>

Roads	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	
Stehekin Valley Road: Reroutes	<p>Reroutes None. Road grade raise at Milepost 6.25 to 6.53. Road grade raise of 1 — 3 feet at Milepost 6.95 to 7.14. Slight realignment and slope work at Milepost 6.0 to 6.5. Lower Field Riparian Restoration Riparian restoration would occur along the bank to the edge of the existing roadway adjacent to the Lower Field. Bank hardening or Barbs would be placed as need to protect road.</p>	<p>The proposed Reroute in alternative 2 essentially abandons a large portion of private Property. The proposed reroute is too narrow, steep and curvy and generally unsafe, and would be very difficult to maintain and keep open during seasonal flooding and in the winter. This proposed reroute would be a detriment to the community, public access and recreation.</p>
McGregor Meadows Access Road	N/A	
Stehekin Valley Road / Road: private access	Private access would be via existing spur roads off the Stehekin Valley Road. Access would be maintained where the road grade is raised in McGregor Meadows.	It is the responsibility of the agency that maintains the road to also maintain good access to all private property.
Company Creek road protection strategy / erosion protection measures	Maintain road in its existing alignment. Bank hardening and Barbs would be placed where needed. Maintain the existing levee and existing erosion protection measures (barbs and grade control structures).	All tools and Techniques available for erosion control should be retained and used to maintain Company Creek road.
Harlequin Bridge	Continue to maintain. If replacement is needed, install a longer span bridge that is raised to a height to allow for adequate water flow beneath the bridge.	

Administrative Facilities		
Maintenance Area	view Maintenance document here (from Stehekin Heritage website)	
NPS Housing	view Facilities document here (from Stehekin Heritage website)	
Recreational Facilities		
Weaver Point Cultural Resources	Same as Alternative 1 plus: Extend proposed logjam up-river, and install rock barbs and bioengineering to prevent river shoreline erosion and protect all of Weaver Point Campground, retaining all tools available to this purpose. Maintain existing Historical cribbing up river from NPS house.	All tools and techniques available for erosion control should be retained and used to preserve and maintain all of Weaver point.
Harlequin Campground	Maintain Harlequin Campground, including group sites, in its existing location. Take actions as needed in response to flooding. Continue to use Harlequin Campground except during flooding and unless catastrophic impacts occur.	Harlequin Camp is one of the nicest camps in the valley and should be maintain in its entirety.
Purple Point Horse Camp	Purple Point Horse Camp would continue to be used for horse parties plus as an overflow group campsite. Construct additional group/individual campsites at Purple Point Horse Camp. New campsites would include corresponding infrastructure.	Horse use should be preserved and camping sites expanded.
Rainbow Falls Campground (proposed)	Construct new individual and group campsites near Rainbow Falls. Campsites would include corresponding infrastructure At historical camp location.	Rainbow falls is a historic campsite and should be rebuilt in its original site.

Company Creek Campground (proposed)	No Action	
Bullion Campground	Remove hazard trees, retaining camp in existing location. Add Vault toilet if needed.	The original campsite is sheltered and the proposed new site is in the open and exposed. The original camp is safer for families (away from the river).
Lower Valley Trail	Lower Valley Trail should start at Weaver point and follow existing river trail to Harlequin Bridge making improvements as needed. The trail would then continue on the north side of the river to High Bridge following historical wagon road where possible. Sensitivity to private property should be a priority and the trail alignment moved as needed. Where the trail passes private property and it is not practical to go around the private property, existing road right of way should be used. Trail should be multi-use including both horses and Bicycles. Stehekin valley road from the landing to Harlequin bridge would continue to be the hiker/biker access. Widening the road along the head of the Lake and at Frog Island to improve safety.	Alternative 5 is more practical and affordable. Starting the Lower Valley trail at Weaver point is an ideal route largely following the river for much of the way, and gives the users a great route that is multi-use, and that is not on the road. Keeping the main route from the landing on the Stehekin Valley Road below Harlequin Bridge is in the best interest of the visitors including hikers because it continues to pass local businesses, Historic landmarks, and points of interest. Widening the road along the Lake and by Frog Island is much needed and can be done in conjunction with erosion control work making if cost effective.
Stehekin River Trail connector to Lower Valley Trail	No Action See lower valley trail option	Too expensive, money would be better spent elsewhere on trails.
Raft launches / takeout / boat access	Same as Alternative 1 plus: Construct new raft takeout / boat access near the Stehekin River Mouth and add new 300-foot long spur road off Stehekin Valley Road.	

	Coordinate actions with private landowners.	
Shooting Range	Retain shooting range in its existing Location or if required move to another suitable location.	It is critical that there be a shooting range in Stehekin
Management of Large Woody Debris		
Actions	Woody debris could be removed where needed to allow natural flow of water in existing river channel and to alleviate damage to property elsewhere. A safe channel for public recreation shall be maintained.	Critical that management of woody debris be allowed, as needed, without restrictions.
Private use	Wood from log jams could be made available to private users for historical uses within the Stehekin Valley. The practice of salvaging logs from Lake Chelan will continue subject to county and state jurisdiction.	Historical uses should be maintained.
Public facilities / private development	Same as alternative 1	
Erosion Protection Measures		Erosion protection should be used to keep the river in its current channel where possible and to protect the Stehekin Valley Road and private property. No unreasonable restrictions should be placed on it's application. The following proposals in alternative 5 have these requirements in mind.
Proposed Number of barbs	16 - 17 new rock barbs plus others as conditions dictate.	

Log jams	Construct and maintain as needed to protect private property and roads.	
Company Creek Road and Stehekin Valley Road	Maintain erosion protection measures (rock barbs and grade control structures) installed by the NPS since the 1980s on Company Creek Road and those installed since the 1980s by the NPS along the Stehekin Valley Road.	
Stehekin River Mouth	Keep approximately 100 feet of rip-rap on public land where beneficial with 3 rock barbs and bioengineering and construct a small logjam to minimize potential for a river channel shift.	
Stehekin Valley Road Erosion Protection Measures		
1. SVR Milepost 2.0 (Boulder Creek Area)	Build grade control structure with logjam on top starting at Boulder Creek alluvial fan and continuing down river to first main flood channel. Maintain and repair road as needed.	
2. Buckner Homestead Hayfield and Pasture	Use all tools and techniques available for erosion control may be used to protect historical homestead and hayfield including rock barbs and bank hardening as needed.	
3. SVR Milepost 3.8 (Frog Island)	Stabilize bank with 1 - 2 barbs and bioengineering to stabilize the bank within 30 feet of the road.	
4. SVR Milepost 5.3 (Wilson Creek)	Same as Alternative 1 except: Instead of rip-rap clusters, construct 2 - 3 rock barbs to	

	stabilize the toe of the slope and augment natural bank armoring.	
5. SVR Milepost 6.25 - 6.53 and Milepost 6.95 - 7.14	As called for by the Road Improvement Project, raise roadbed 2-5 feet (as suggested by Federal Highways standards of the early 1970's) starting at bottom of 6 mile hill and continuing to down-valley edge of lower field. Construct road so that trapped water on North side of road could flow over road in high water situations at Danielson's corner.	
6. SVR Milepost 6.0 - 6.5	As called for by the Road Improvement Project, lay back slope, remove eyebrow, construct drystack rock wall, and implement minor road realignment between Milepost 6.0 - 6.5 to improve sight distance.	
7. SVR Milepost 7.0	Same as Alternative 1 plus construct 2 rock barbs to maintain road at Milepost 7.0.	
8. SVR Milepost 7.3 - 7.4 Lower Field	Implement riparian restoration along edge of Lower Field. Add two rock barbs and bioengineering to protect Stehekin Valley Road alignment.	
9. SVR Milepost 7.8 Thimbleberry Creek	Retain 72-inch and two 48-inch culverts.	
10. SVR Milepost 8.0	Lay slope back to an angle that will self heal and use material in raising of road from Mile post 6 to 7. Maintain raised section of roadway, including rock barbs and bioengineering. If the road becomes undermined, rebuild it in place.	
11. SVR Milepost 8.5	As called for by the Road	

	Improvement Project, realign culvert to meet creek at point of entry rather than forcing it parallel to the road and then under the road.	
12.SVR Milepost 9.2 (Above Stehekin Valley Ranch)	Install Culvert and extend ditch to river. Build up road as required and maintain ditch along road with extra culverts as needed.	

11. Stehekin Heritage Summary Recommendations

Draft LPP and SRCIP

1. We request that the National Park Service (NPS) cooperate with Chelan County to **conduct a socio-economic impact analysis and investigation of the effects of continued land acquisition on the future of the Stehekin Community.**
2. Until this socio-economic impact analysis is completed, we request **that the NPS support Chelan County and work to enact an immediate moratorium on Federal purchase of private property in Stehekin Valley.**
3. It is essential that the **LPP state overtly** in the overall objectives and goals that: **It is a management goal of the National Park Service to support an active, viable community of people living and working in Stehekin as an enhancement to visitor appreciation and use of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.**
4. The NPS should continue to **honor current land trade activity** (with no net loss of private property land base value) but agree to a moratorium on all land acquisition until the above investigation is conducted.
5. If the goal of the NPS is to “trade” properties endangered by the river, **“Let the River Decide”** which pieces are most threatened and need prioritized, and trade only those vulnerable lands. **Priority lists would be only for trading purposes.** Land trades should be carefully crafted so that the owner receives the same value for their original piece with all property rights intact. Value is defined not only by dollar amount but also by potential uses of the original property.
6. **Maintain the Stehekin Valley Road at its present location** and protect the road from the river both adjacent to the road and also at strategic locations away from the road where it can be predicted, with a high degree of certainty, to harm the road if allowed to erode.
7. **Change all “acquisition” priorities to read “exchange” priorities.** See section 5.2. LPP
8. **Separate the SRCIP** and the LPP to allow an extended timetable for study of the impacts of the LPP, while immediately implementing river control and road protections measures listed in the SRCIP. Also expand the list of river projects where needed and allow for flexibility for future required work as changes occur.
9. **Remove appendix C – the Overlay District – from the plan.**
10. **Facilities – Stehekin Heritage supports removing the facilities section from all SRCIP alternatives** until a clearly articulated set of alternatives are developed for this maintenance/housing complex.

11. Support Alternative 5 - This alternative represents a common sense and practical management philosophy consistent with the intent of enabling legislation (PL-90-544), supports a sustained vibrant community, public access and recreation. Additionally, Alternative 5 supports land trades (with a no net loss of existing land base or value) keeps the road in its original alignment, protects the road from river erosion, and improves visitor access.

This Summary Statement is presented with the intention of supporting management policies that sustain the heritage and perpetuation of the Stehekin Community. Stehekin Heritage asserts that continued land acquisition by the National Park Service (NPS) in the Stehekin Valley will, unquestionably, lead to the demise of the Stehekin Community.

APPENDIX

i. Elevated Property Prices – The NPS and Land Acquisition in the Stehekin Valley

In the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (LCNRA), through the practice of purchasing property at a higher price than the local market can support, the National Park Service (NPS) has elevated property values within the seller's market. Some sellers are now choosing to put a selling price on their private property that is well above what the market can support. The higher asking price is reflective of what the NPS has offered for other properties in the Stehekin Valley. Sellers are willing to wait for the Park Service's offer of more money.

Elevated property prices are also a result of a very limited private property market. The NPS has purchased 75% of the property that was privately owned when the LCNRA was created, reducing the private property land base to less than 420 acres.

Special interest groups have made monies available to the NPS for purchasing private holdings in the LCNRA. This allows the federal government to offer more money than what their own appraisal criteria allow.

An example of this is the former Paula Stone property, which was on the market for a long time. After several offers from buyers were turned down, the NPS purchased the property at the elevated asking price. It is noteworthy that funds from special interest groups were used in the purchase of that property.

Presently there are a number of private properties that are being offered for sale at what would seem to be an elevated price. Some of these have been on the market for years, and the asking prices remain high. As no private parties have purchased any of these desirable properties, one can conclude **they are priced above what the market value can bear.**

As a comparison, recently there have been several sales of properties that have sold within the private sector, which would indicate a more reasonable market value. The private buyer market (via the free market and actual purchases) is much lower than the artificially propped up NPS buying prices.

ii. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY — PL 90-544

Creating the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and The North Cascades National Park

PART I

Ron Scutt

As in all communities, living in Stehekin carries the responsibility of citizenship. We are a very small community with a very large public responsibility. We live in an area treasured by Americans across the United States, as well as citizens of other countries. In 1968, Public Law 90-544 was passed by the US Congress. This official act of Congress reflected the desires of the American people, the national constituency, as expressed in hearings held in the State of Washington and Washington D.C. This public law set forth the principles by which the NPS was to administer this area for the general good of the public. The "general good of the public" included environmental, visitor service, and community life concerns.

The passage of PL 90-544 heralded the beginning of new management in the North Cascades. Previously, federal lands were administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The new law placed federal lands in the Stehekin Valley (Lake Chelan National Recreation Area), and the North Cascades National Park, within the management jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

Congress accepted the responsibility of creating a law. The NPS has been given the responsibility to administer the law. Since 1968, Stehekin residents, and the larger national constituency from beyond the geographical confines of the valley, have been asked to respond to a host of planning efforts initiated by the NPS. Each and every one of these planning efforts grapples with the question, "What was the intention of Congress when they passed our enacting legislation?" Knowing the intention of Congress when they passed PL 90-544 is the foundation upon which all planning efforts are legally based. The NPS acknowledges this. Environmental groups acknowledge this. Stehekin residents acknowledge this. Difficulties arise in trying to interpret the "intention" of Congress.

This continuing column will address the legislative history of PL 90--544. The tools for examining questions of intention are available to us today. We will: 1. examine significant statements made by Congressman, Senators, and the then Director of the National Park Service, at public hearings, 2. review Senate and House reports which accompanied the law itself, and 3. examine laws which have been passed since 1968 which are relevant to administration of the North Cascades Complex. We will also look at the entire history of creating legislation in this nationally significant area. All of this review is necessary for the thoughtful interpretation of our enacting legislation.

Eight years of research into discovering the intention of Congress when they passed PL 90-544 has left an over-riding indelible impression. The law itself was a masterpiece of legislative effort! It is a work of art!! PL 90-544 represents the will of the combined voices of all the people. PL 90-544 is an example of how Congress can work effectively for the PEOPLE. It is our hope that this column will help shed light on the importance of this law as it relates to the community of Stehekin, the visiting public, and the environment.

PART II

The first segment of our legislative history column was concluded with the following summary:

"PL 90-544 is a masterpiece of legislative effort. It is a work of art!!

PL 90-544 represents the will of the combined voices of all the people.

PL 90-544 is an example of how Congress can work effectively FOR
THE PEOPLE."

The reason we want to provide our readers with a thorough discussion of Legislative History is because it is the Law which provides the foundation upon which the land is protected, and the Stehekin Community is given the security to abide in this valley. Common sense might also dictate that a viable social, economic, and spiritual community continue to exist in context with the land. However; no matter what common sense might dictate, it is PL 90-544 upon which our rights and responsibilities are based. Therefore, it is the Law we must understand. (It feels uncomfortable to give this artistic piece of legislative effort the chilly, impersonal name of PL 90-544. It is a law which warms to the legitimate needs of the People. For the time being, I will call this legislative effort the North Cascades Bill.)

The fundamental question before those who study the North Cascades Bill is: **How did Congress intend that these lands be used for the overall benefit of the people?** When considering the North Cascades, two words are predominantly used to describe management direction to benefit the people for future generations - Preservation and Recreation. Each simple word carries certain administrative ideals and solutions. **Which concept was to prevail in the North Cascades? Preservation? Recreation?**

Reviewing literature concerning legislative efforts in the North Cascades, one strong impression is recognized. Enormous thought and effort have been focused upon the people and the land of the North Cascades. Different individuals and organizations may have contrasting views concerning management objectives, but all speak intelligently and passionately towards the land they love.

Legislative History from 1906 to 1968

In four separate years -1906,1916, 1926, and 1938- various proposals were made for setting aside acreage for national protection in the North Cascades. Each of these proposals called for National Park protection and preservation management of the North Cascades.

Starting in the 1960's political action was initiated to create a vast National Park and Wilderness in the North Cascades. This dream of exclusive wilderness-park complex was realized to a great extent but not completely. When public debate was complete, PL 90-544, the North Cascades Complex Bill was passed and signed into law by Lyndon Johnson in October of 1968 it included the Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas. The public sentiment that swayed lawmakers to create two recreation areas, as well as, park and wilderness areas was significant.

1960 — 1968 In 1960, a study to evaluate the potential of establishing a Cascade National Park was undertaken. In 1963 the North Cascades Conservation Council (N3C) prepared a bill that would create a 1,303,168 acre national park. The village of Stehekin would have been included as part of the park. This proposal was followed by Secretary

of Interior Udall forwarding a bill to Congress in March on 1967 which also placed the village of Stehekin within the boundaries of the North Cascades Park. Preservation is the dominant and guiding principal of national park status.

If we were to end our review of legislative history at this March 1967 date, there would certainly be a clear case made for the fact that the lower Stehekin valley and the village of Stehekin were to be part of a nation park with a preservation mandate. **Had Congress passed the North Cascades bill as presented by Secretary Udall, Stehekin would have been part of the classical National Park System just as Yellowstone, Glacier or Olympic National Parks.**

Fortunately for the Stehekin Community, the bill introduced by Secretary Udall was greatly modified as a result of public input before PL 90-544 was passed in October of 1968. In the following article, we will examine the public process from March of 1967 to October of 1968.

The reader should realize that legislative activity concerning the North Cascades has occurred since the early 1900's and that this work culminated in the passage of PL 90-544 in October of 1968.

PART III

Even though the law and its legislative history indicate otherwise, there are those who say the LCNRA is to be managed as a traditional park. How do you answer this assertion other than to systematically examine the path of PL 90-544 as it traveled through Congress? You can't.

Following the passage of PL 90-544 is essential for those who want to thoughtfully address issues in Stehekin today. The diagram below is a flow chart that follows the course of the North Cascades legislation through Congress. Hopefully, a picture is worth a thousand words. Why is this diagram an essential ingredient understanding present day Stehekin? Every management decision made in the LCNRA must eventually (if the public is watching) "square" with the law. Was the LCNRA to be managed as a park or was the LCNRA to be managed in an entirely different manner? My thinking is quite straightforward here. If the Stehekin Valley was to be managed as a traditional park, **Congress had ample opportunity to pass a law making the Stehekin Valley a part of the North Cascades National Park. For some reason(s) Congress choose an entirely different legislative designation.**

On the Senate side:

March 17, 1967 Secretary of Interior Udall forwarded to Congress a proposed bill (S.1321). This bill did not include the LCNRA. Stehekin was included in the proposed park.	April & July 1967 Senate hearings held in Wash. D.C. and the state of WA. The public testified concerning the proposed bill. After listening to public input, the Senate suggested changes to S.1321.
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OCTOBER 1967

SENATE REPORT 700 ISSUED -
**STEHEKIN NOW TO BE
PART OF THE NEWLY PROPOSED
LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL
RECREATION AREA**

On the House Side:

April & July 1968

House hearings on four separate
House bills as well as the amended Senate Bill
S1321. Three of these bills did not include
Stehekin in a Recreation Area.

Considered

HR8970 - No LCNRA
HR 12139 - No LCNRA
HR 16252 - a bill to establish North
Cascades Recreation Area -No
LCNRA
***S.1321**-amended Senate Bill -
includes LCNRA

September 9, 1968

HOUSE REPORT 1870 ISSUED
AFTER MORE PUBLIC TESTIMONY
THE HOUSE AGREES WITH THE SENATE
STEHEKIN IS INCLUDED IN
LAKE CHELAN

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

After listening to testimony from citizens throughout the nation,
both the Senate and the House concluded that the
village of Stehekin should be included in a
National *Recreation Area* rather than the National Park.

OCTOBER 2, 1968

Public Law 90-544 Creates

THE LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

AND

THE NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

It should now be obvious that Congress did not want traditional park status and management for the lower Stehekin Valley. They choose a completely different management designation. However, traditional management policy has not necessarily acknowledged Congressionally mandated differences.

The late Robert Byrd wrote his thoughts (1982) concerning administration of the LCNRA by the NPS since enacting legislation was passed in 1968.

"For everything from the very beginning has been built on the wrong assumption. The basic law has quite simply been misinterpreted: **a national recreation area is not a national park and should not be administered as one.** A Lake Chelan National Recreation area is not a North Cascades National Park. The lower Stehekin Valley is no more a part of the national park than is the Glacier Peak Wilderness or the Pasayten Wilderness are part of it, even though they were designated and brought into being at the same time by the same act of congress. It is a totally separate and entirely different legal entity than anything else, all by itself alone, and would stand of itself had it alone received such designation 13 years ago."

After reviewing the passage of PL 90-544, it would seem that Mr. Byrd is correct. If Congress had intended the Stehekin Valley to be managed as a park, they certainly had their chance to make it a park right from the beginning.

HOWEVER THEY DIDN'TTHEY DIDN'T FOR MANY REASONS!

Part IV will examine the reasons Congress stated for creating the LCNRA rather a traditional park in the Lower Stehekin Valley.

PART IV

After holding public hearings, both the House and the Senate submitted reports which accompanied PL 90-544 in its final form. Senate Report 700 and House Report 1870 are the names of these documents. Whenever there are questions concerning what Congress intended for management in the North Cascades, these two reports are the legally acknowledged defining documents which present the management intentions of Congress. It has been a struggle for members of the Stehekin community to get the NPS to acknowledge the existence and contents of the Senate and House Reports. Hopefully, this review will reach more people than ever before.

Both the Senate and House Report accompanying PL 90-544 are clear concerning whether these lands were to be managed with a recreation emphasis, or a preservation emphasis. With a recreation emphasis, a community of responsible people can continue to live a their lives and/or provide services for the visiting public. With preservation as the primary emphasis, the Stehekin community would be relegated to a human form of endangered species. Fortunately, the legislation and its history are clear. Congress declared that the values of recreation and community life are essential in the North Cascades.

HOUSE REPORT 1870: From page 9

"Altogether the Federal land in this general vicinity total nearly 7 million acres — an amount equaling 16 percent of the State of Washington and over half of all federally owned lands in the State. Because Federal landownership is so extensive, **it is essential that the forest lands lying outside of the areas to be transferred to the Department of the Interior for administration continue to be administered in accordance with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.** That is not to say, however, that their outdoor recreation potentials should be ignored. **On the contrary, one of the most persuasive arguments on behalf of this vast recreation complex is that it affords two of the principal Federal agencies with recreation responsibilities with an opportunity to develop a meaningful and coordinated outdoor recreation plan.**

In view of the substantial acreage which will be designated as wilderness, it seems highly appropriate that the National Park Service should embark on the bold and imaginative development program which it described to the committee. This program should seek to maximize public use and enjoyment of the areas being transferred to its jurisdiction." (Emphasis added)

On page 10 the following summary statement is made concerning Development Plans, "Although it involves federally owned lands almost exclusively, the enactment of this legislation would assure their management and utilization for outdoor recreation; whereas their continued administration by the Forest Service might not always result in recreational values being given priority over all other uses." (emphasis added)

Finally, on pages 12 and 13 — "... Because of the variety of activities enjoyed by the public within this vast area, and because large areas are, or will be, preserved as wilderness, the park and recreation areas established pursuant to the enactment of this legislation should be utilized to assure public use and enjoyment to the fullest extent possible without destroying that for which they are established." (Emphasis added)

These statements are placed in bold type because they are bold statements! They give character and purpose to PL 90-544. These are bold statements that give specific direction to the recreational intention of PL 90-544. Recreation values were to be given priority in the park and recreation areas! Congressional intention is clear!

SENATE REPORT 700: The Senate Report speaks more specifically to the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (LCNRA) On pages 30 and 31 under "Boundary Changes" (Here the reasons for placing Stehekin in the LCNRA rather than the National Park are listed.) "Designate the lower Stehekin Valley and upper Lake Chelan areas the Lake Chelan National Recreation area instead of a part of the park. **Many of the yearlong residents of the Stehekin Valley are descendants of the original homesteaders. Some 1700 acres, mostly on the valley floor are in private ownership, and in the past several decades a number of summer homes have been built ...** The lake ... will serve as the primary access for park and recreation visitors approaching from the southeast. **The village and the lower valley, therefore, will have considerable use, and development to accommodate these visitors will be necessary. ... All of these factors were important in the committee's decision to create a 62,000 acre recreation area here, instead of giving the area national park status.**" (Emphasis added)

This type of language is absolutely unique and specific to this area and this law. The community was acknowledged as compatible with the purposes of the law. Development was compatible. Private property was compatible. Considerable use was compatible.

Furthermore, the State of Washington did not cede its rights over private property or jurisdiction over the surface of Lake Chelan. The NPS was given proprietary rather than exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction over federal lands. (This means they are an equal neighbor in the valley rather than having complete control over land management decisions.) Hunting was permitted in the LCNRA. The use of natural resources including

firewood, sand, rock and gravel was permitted in the LCNRA. Circular #1 (more on this document later) was recognized as the primary management guideline for the LCNRA. Circular #1 "provides in part that outdoor recreation shall be recognized as the dominant or primary resource management purpose". (page 28, Senate Report 700.) The law provided the foundation for continued, viable community life.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

If the general public and the media believe the law creating this area did nothing other than make Stehekin a hunting area within a park, the potential for this community to continue to exist is greatly diminished. PL 90-544 established many significant differences between this area and traditional parks. The sum total of these differences enable a community to continue to survive in this extremely isolated setting. If these differences are ignored the community character here will cease to exist. The stakes are high. This is why the review of legislative history is important. **The law is important.**

How did Congress view the management philosophies of preservation and recreation?

Let's take a look at the numerical facts which make up the essential elements of PL90-544. Congress acknowledges both preservation and recreation priorities. Areas which are to be managed with preservation as the priority are designated as Wilderness Areas and Parks. Areas in which recreation values are to be given priority have been designated as Recreation Areas. The following list of acres designated for preservation or recreation priority in PL90-544 is presented below. It is evident that Congress was creative with their designations.

520,000 acres Pasayten Wilderness (high preservation priority)

452,000 acres existing Glacier Peak Wilderness (high preservation priority)

10,000 acres addition to Glacier Peak Wilderness (high preservation priority)

505,000 acres North Cascades National Park (preservation priority)

1,487,000 total acres designated for preservation priority (Yes, that's One Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-seven thousand Acres.)

107,000 acres Ross Lake National Recreation Area

62,000 acres Lake Chelan National Recreation Area

169,000 total acres designated for recreation priority (only 10% of all designated lands in the North Cascades has been given Recreational Priority.