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Next Steps

Over the next few months, the planning team will determine what additional studies are needed for the analysis and site selection, use the scoping comments to develop design layouts for the proposed facility locations, and determine how to package the alternatives for the EA.

The process for developing the EA and drafting the special regulation to allow acceptance of non-NPS solid waste with cost recovery will consist of the following steps:

- *Fall/Winter 2013-14:*
Develop alternatives and design layouts based on the purpose and need, issues, and objectives. Develop interim fee structure for solid waste disposal services.
- *Spring/Summer 2014:*
Prepare the EA, including the analysis of impacts to LACH's resources. Finalize language for special regulation authorizing solid waste transfer station location and operation.
- *Summer/Fall 2014:*
Release EA and publish special regulation for simultaneous public review and comment.
- *Winter 2014-15:*
Analyze public comments and prepare a decision document. Notify public of decision. Publish final regulation and begin implementing cost recovery for solid waste services.

Contact Information



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Lake Chelan National Recreation Area

Replacement of Administrative Facilities at Stehekin
Public Scoping Newsletter Fall 2013

Dear Friends of North Cascades,

The National Park Service (NPS) recently completed public and agency scoping on a proposal to relocate various administrative facilities out of the floodplain and channel migration zone of the Stehekin River corridor. This newsletter highlights what we heard during public review and outlines the next steps in the planning process.

The formal public scoping comment period for the Environmental Assessment (EA) began on June 11, 2013, and ended on July 10, 2013. During this time, Lake Chelan National Recreational Area (LACH) held three open house public meetings in Stehekin (June 24, 2013), Wenatchee (June 25, 2013), and Seattle (June 26, 2013). Each meeting consisted of a brief presentation by NPS staff, followed by an informal question and answer period. A site walking tour was also conducted in Stehekin on June 25, 2013. In addition to NPS staff, the meetings were attended by approximately 30 people. No written comments were submitted during these public meetings. However, 29 comments were recorded by NPS staff and consultants. The park received 11 public comment letters during the scoping period, including 9 from individuals, 1 from a non-profit organization, and 1 from a Tribe.



We received comments on the following general topics:

- *alternatives*
- *design issues at the new maintenance facility*
- *fee structure for solid waste disposal*
- *traffic, dust, and noise*
- *land exchange properties*
- *electrical demands of the new maintenance facility*
- *archaeological resources*
- *night skies*

Additional detail about each topic is provided throughout this newsletter. These comments will be taken into consideration by the planning team as we develop design layouts for the proposed facilities and refine alternatives to be evaluated in the EA.

Thank you for your interest in the Replacement of Administrative Facilities at Stehekin!

Sincerely,

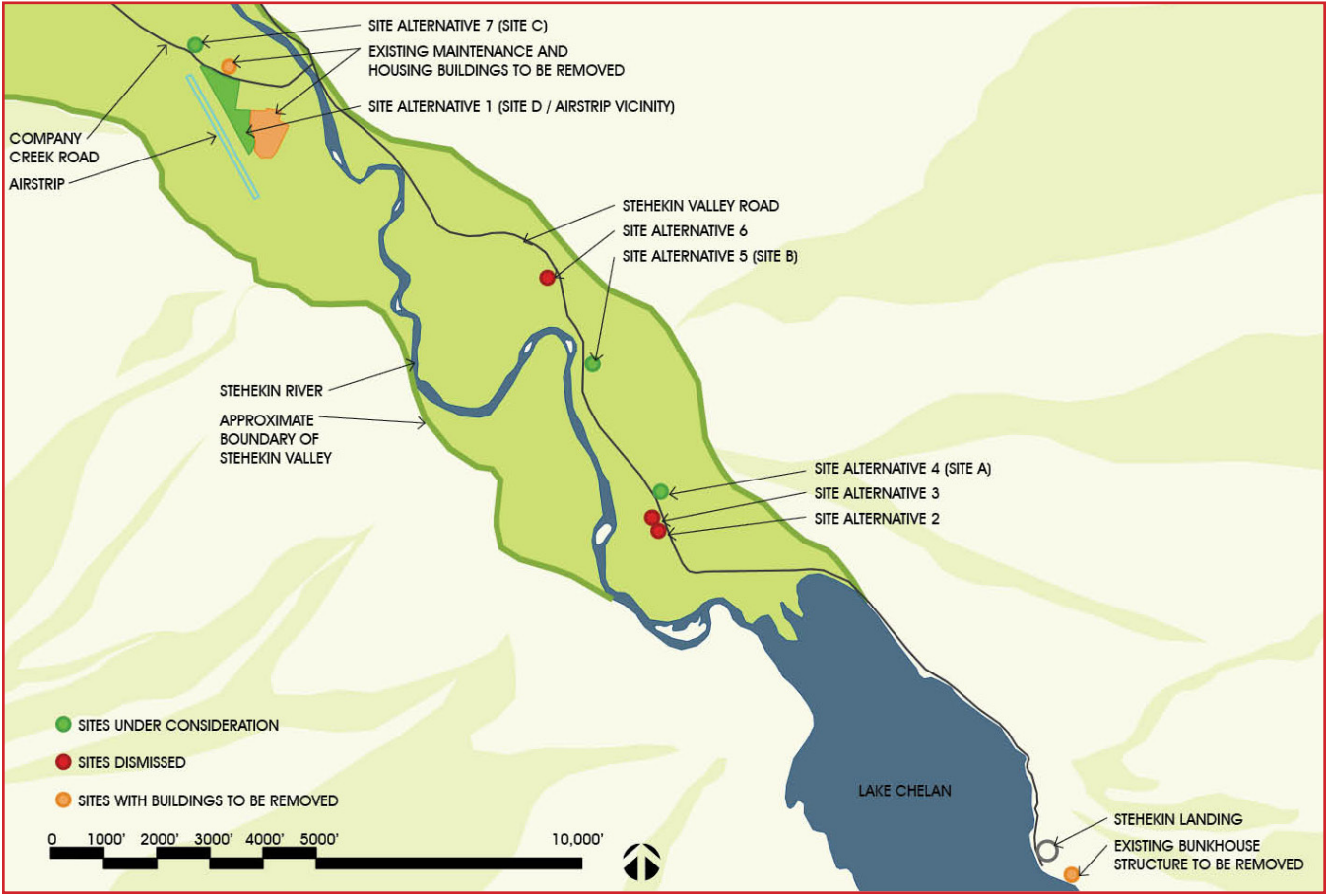
Karen Taylor-Goodrich
Superintendent

Alternatives

The proposed locations for the new facilities were identified in the EA Public Scoping Newsletter and summarized during the presentation by NPS staff at each scoping meeting. The facility locations include one site for the new maintenance facility (Airstrip Vicinity Site) and four sites for the single-family house (Site Alternatives 4, 5, 7, and the Airstrip Vicinity Site). During the scoping period, several individuals expressed preference for one housing site over another; however, an overwhelming preference for any one site was not evident. The following comments and recommendations were received relative to the range and definition of alternatives to be evaluated in the EA:

- Consider the gravel pit west of the airstrip as an alternative site for the new maintenance facility.
- Consider an alternative that includes the two-acre land exchange parcel near the airstrip as part of the new maintenance facility.

- Consider an alternative that excludes the two-acre land exchange parcel near the airstrip so it remains available for potential exchange.
- Incorporate floodproofing of the existing maintenance facility as part of the no action and action alternatives. Implementation of the U.S. Army Corps Advanced Protection Measures (i.e., ring-dikes) could be utilized to protect the existing structures and hazardous materials on-site from flooding. Identify differences in fee rates to implement these measures, as appropriate.
- Identify the planned use for the existing maintenance facility site after it is demolished as part of the action alternatives. Participants in the Stehekin walking tour suggested leaving the site as open space for recreational purposes, such as picnicking, camping, or playfields.



Design Issues

The following issues were identified related to the design of the proposed facilities, including site layout, and operational and architectural characteristics:

- Consider energy efficiency and the overall electrical demands of the new maintenance facility.
- Consider the use of a non-polluting, high-intensity incinerator at the new solid waste facility.
- Consider a comprehensive recycling program at the new maintenance facility, including composting, to conserve resources and reduce the costs of shipping out waste by barge.
- Identify hours of operation and points of access to the new solid waste facility with consideration for the Stehekin Community, which currently has unrestricted access to the existing facility.
- Maintain the “Stehekin Mall” at the new maintenance facility. The mall is a designated area within the existing solid waste facility where residents exchange used items.
- Consider light pollution and preservation of night skies in the design of the new maintenance facility. Potential design measures include down-lighting, occupancy sensors, and timers for exterior lights; and maintaining a buffer of trees between the airstrip and new maintenance facility.

“...a recycling station is needed and expanded recycling, reuse, and composting within Stehekin [should] be contemplated in the EA...”

Previously Identified Issues

The following issues previously identified by LACH staff for evaluation in the EA were also identified as concerns during public scoping:

- The new fee structure for solid waste disposal could lead to individual dumping or burning within the Stehekin Valley.
- The new maintenance facility could generate additional traffic, dust, and noise along Company Creek Road.
- The new facilities should not infringe on properties previously identified for land exchange.
- The new maintenance facility may increase electrical demands on the Stehekin Hydroelectric Power Plant.
- Construction activities in previously undisturbed areas could directly affect archaeological resources within or near the proposed facility locations.

“I am concerned that the increase in traffic will create a dust problem along Company Creek Road.”

Each of these issues will be addressed in the EA under the following impact topics: *Socioeconomics*, *Public Health and Safety*, *Archaeological Sites*, and *Park Operations*.

New Issues

The following new issues were raised:

- Light pollution at the airstrip due to the new maintenance facility may affect the preservation of night skies, the ability of residents to continue star-gazing, and wildlife such as bats and migratory birds that navigate during the night.

This issue will be addressed in the EA in a new impact topic: *Night Skies*.

“I want to make sure that the outdoor lighting planned for the facilities is dark-sky and wildlife appropriate. Stehekin is located in one of the least light polluted areas of Washington State.”