

Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed
Management Program Phase 1 for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024

No. R23AS00362



Lake Chelan Collaboration: Watershed Group Diversification and
Watershed Restoration Planning Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department

411 Washington Street Suite 201
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Project Manager: Mike Kaputa
Email: Mike.Kaputa@co.chelan.wa.us
Cell phone: (509) 670-6935

Table of Contents

<u>Technical Proposal</u>	3
Executive Summary	3
Project Location	3
Applicant Category	4
Eligibility of Applicant	5
Project Description.....	6
Evaluation Criteria	7
Evaluation Criterion A – Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope	7
Sub-criterion A1. Watershed Group Diversity	7
Sub-criterion A2 – Geographic Scope	11
Evaluation Criterion B – Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs	13
Sub-criterion B1 – Critical Watershed Needs or Issues.....	13
Sub-criterion B2 – Project Benefits	17
Evaluation Criterion C – Readiness to Proceed.....	19
Evaluation Criterion D – Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities -	21
<u>Budget</u>	24
<u>Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance</u>	25
<u>Required Permits or Approvals</u>	25
<u>Overlap or Duplication of Efforts Statement</u>	25
<u>Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement</u>	2
<u>Official Resolution</u>	26
Appendix A: Letters of Support.....	27

Executive Summary

Date: December 5, 2023

Applicant Name: Chelan County Natural Resources Department

City, County, State: Wenatchee, Chelan County, Washington

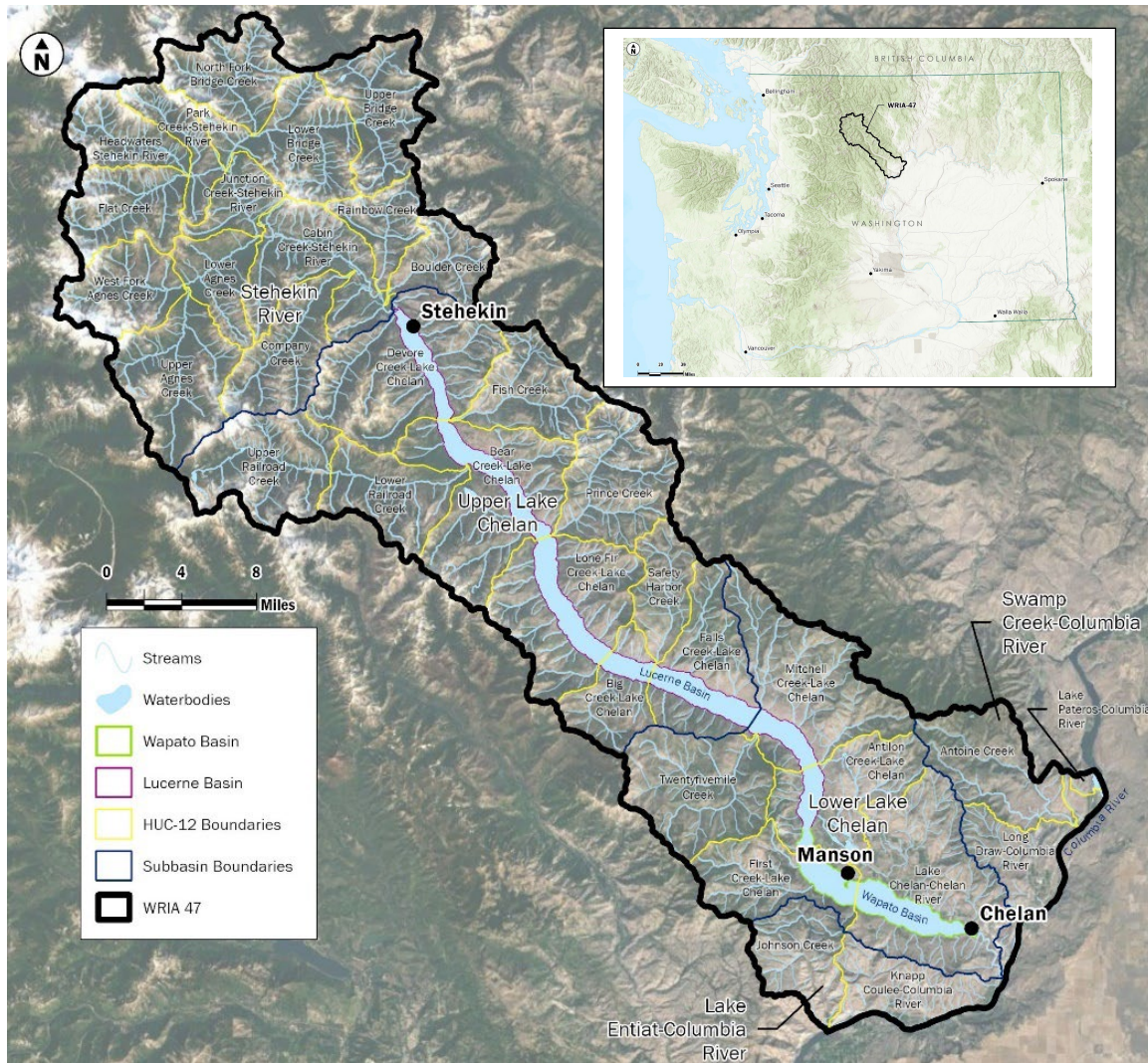
Project Summary: Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD) will establish the Lake Chelan Collaborative (LCC) to address critical water resource issues and other resource concerns in the Lake Chelan Watershed through collaborative planning, broad-based stakeholder engagement and data collection. The LCC will build upon an existing watershed group and previous watershed planning efforts in the basin to address critical water supply and water quality challenges as well as aquatic invasive species, forest health, potential bull trout reintroduction, and the impacts of climate change. The reinvigorated and diverse watershed group will recruit membership including landowners; farmers; federal, state and local agencies; tribes; environmental groups; recreation interests; business and development interests; outfitters; and historically under-represented populations through partnerships with community-based organizations. LCC will develop a collaborative organizational structure, gather and share existing information about the watershed, identify critical data gaps, and develop a consensus Lake Chelan Watershed Restoration Plan to guide future watershed management.

Length of project: December 31, 2024 – December 31, 2027

Federal Facilities: (1) Lake Chelan Reclamation District and (2) lands owned and managed by the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Project Location

The project is located in the Lake Chelan Watershed (WRIA 47), an 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) Watershed (17020009) in Chelan County, Washington approximately 30 miles north of Wenatchee in north central Washington State. The entire watershed is approximately 1,044 square miles, with the lake itself covering approximately 52 square miles. Significant tributaries to the lake include First Creek, Stink Creek, Twenty-Five Mile Creek and the Stehekin River at the head of the lake. Upper Lake Chelan, known as the “Lucerne Basin,” is primarily under federal ownership of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and the North Cascades National Park. Lower Lake Chelan, known as the “Wapato Basin,” encompasses the southern end of the lake and includes the city of Chelan and the community of Manson. The Wapato Basin is predominantly privately owned.



Map 1: Lake Chelan Watershed, Water Resource Inventory 47 (WRIA 47)

Applicant Category

CCNRD seeks funding to Expand an Existing Watershed Group and collaboratively develop a Lake Chelan Watershed Restoration Plan that builds on past efforts and reflects new information and priorities from a broad range of stakeholders and tribes. There have been a variety of limited-scope planning efforts over the years in the Lake Chelan watershed to address water quality issues, water supply concerns and other topics of concern. While worthwhile, these efforts typically involved a small set of stakeholders working for a limited time and addressing a narrow purview. Generally, these efforts have included local jurisdictions, such as Chelan County, the City of Chelan, the Lake Chelan Reclamation District and other junior districts, with some limited involvement from state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations, and little to no tribal engagement. The most recent watershed planning effort was undertaken by the Lake Chelan Watershed Planning Unit (LCWPU), which is the existing watershed group we hope to expand and diversify.

Here is a short history of previous planning efforts, their focus and membership:

Lake Chelan Water Quality Committee (LCWQC): Established in the mid-1990s and included Chelan County, City of Chelan, Lake Chelan Reclamation District, Lake Chelan Sewer District and the US Forest Service. LCWQC largely formed to respond to a potential phosphorus loading issue in Lake Chelan and undertook a number of studies, in conjunction with the WA Department of Ecology, to understand phosphorus loading in Lake Chelan. The scope and scale of the effort was limited and did not result in any measurable actions being taken. Later, the LCWQC, in response to potential DDT concerns in the lake from orchard soils, undertook a number of studies, again with WA Department of Ecology, to understand DDT transport mechanisms into the lake. Once again, the scope and scale of the effort was limited, and no actions were taken. LCWQC no longer exists, though some of its efforts continue in the Lake Chelan Watershed Planning Unit.

Lake Chelan Subbasin Planning Committee (LCSPC): Established in 2001 for the sole purpose of developing the Lake Chelan Subbasin Plan for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council to address fish and wildlife habitat issues and mitigation for Columbia River Power System. Led by Chelan County and the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, a broad range of fish and wildlife agencies developed the Subbasin Plan with little to no local or tribal involvement. The Subbasin Plan was developed in 2006 and the planning committee disbanded.

Chelan County PUD FERC Re-Licensing Committee: Established in early 2000s for the sole purpose of re-licensing the Chelan County PUD Lake Chelan Dam. Chelan County PUD continues to operate the Lake Chelan Dam under their new license and is responsible for managing lake levels and fish and wildlife habitat impacts related to lake level management. There are a handful of ongoing committees established to address these issues with Chelan County PUD under the terms of the license. For example, the Lake Chelan Fishery Forum addresses fisheries tributary access affected by differing lake levels.

Lake Chelan Watershed Planning Unit (LCWPU): Established in 2007, the LCWPU developed the [Lake Chelan Watershed Plan](#) in 2012, which narrowly focused on water supply and water quality issues. The LCWPU has perhaps the broadest membership compared to previous watershed planning efforts. There are no tribal members and little to no citizen engagement. The LCWPU is the existing watershed group which we hope to expand and diversify in support of a comprehensive watershed restoration plan.

Eligibility of Applicant

CCNRD is an eligible applicant as a local governmental entity. CCNRD will sponsor the development of the New Lake Chelan Watershed Group. The Wapato Basin of the Lake Chelan Watershed is within Chelan County jurisdiction. CCNRD has a long-term interest in the quality and quantity of water in Lake Chelan and has facilitated past Lake Chelan planning efforts and initiatives.

Project Description

CCNRD is applying for this funding opportunity to build upon previous Lake Chelan planning efforts and support the development of the Lake Chelan Collaborative. Anticipated activities will include both **Task A: Watershed Group Development** and **Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning**.

Activity 1: Organizational Development (TASK A)

CCNRD will hire a professional facilitator for assistance in organizing and developing the Lake Chelan Collaborative in order to build trust in the process and facilitate open dialogue among existing watershed group members and new members. The facilitator will assess the existing watershed group membership and identify new potential members. Broad stakeholder representation will be essential to create a shared understanding of the resource issues in Lake Chelan. Special emphasis will be placed on engaging tribes and historically under-represented populations in the organizational development phase. Additionally, once the stakeholders have been identified and assembled, the Lake Chelan Collaborative can address the organizational structure, consensus-based decision-making process and other operational procedures, which will include a collective mission statement, vision, guiding principles and goals. We envision a monthly meeting schedule for this phase of the project as well as opportunities to participate in community-based organization meetings and events to facilitate engagement.

Activity 2: Stakeholder Education (TASK A)

Stakeholder education involves both educating stakeholders who are attending Lake Chelan Collaborative meetings and the public at large to build a broad-based understanding of the Lake Chelan watershed. When the Lake Chelan Collaborative begins to meet. Stakeholders will receive information and monthly presentations from agencies and other partners about the Lake Chelan watershed and its key resource issues.

One of the initial tasks for the Lake Chelan Collaborative will be to develop a communication strategy to guide outreach to the public at large. Outreach methods will include website development for the project, creation and distribution of content, media and written materials, and attendance at community events.

Activity 3: Research (TASKS A & B)

CCNRD will hire a technical consultant to review and assemble existing resource information on the Lake Chelan watershed. Working with stakeholders, the technical consultant will compile data on the watershed and develop a system for storing and filing information that allows access for all stakeholders. The Lake Chelan Collaborative will review and evaluate the existing data and information, identify critical data gaps that should be filled and develop strategies to fill these data gaps.

Activity 4: Restoration Planning (TASK B)

Following technical analysis and stakeholder interviews and collaboration, the Lake Chelan Collaborative will develop updated watershed restoration goals and strategies, culminating in a Lake Chelan Watershed Restoration Plan. The Plan identify and prioritize the major challenges to water supply, water quality and other resource concerns in the Lake Chelan and its tributaries. Consensus on priorities will be established. The Lake Chelan Collaborative will identify and develop restoration project ideas throughout the planning effort as well as critical data gaps that must be filled and understood for future projects and priorities. The updated watershed restoration plan will finalize an implementation program that will include an implementation schedule and interim milestones; likely funding sources; priority projects; and outreach and monitoring components for evidence-based watershed restoration strategies. The final watershed restoration plan will be communicated and shared through a public outreach strategy defined in the plan.

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criterion A – Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope

Sub-criterion A1. Watershed Group Diversity

There are two distinct geographies in Lake Chelan that reflect the diversity of stakeholders and water resource issues in the basin. The upper ~40 miles of Lake Chelan is known as the “Lucerne” basin and is predominantly under federal ownership of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The upper northern extent of the watershed is located within the North Cascades National Park. Water quantity and water quality are significantly affected by federal management actions and policies in these upper watershed lands. The lower ~12 miles of Lake Chelan is known as the “Wapato” basin and is characterized by substantial private property ownership, residential development, tree fruit and wine grape agriculture, tourist accommodations and facilities, and other state, federal and local ownership. The City of Chelan and the Town of Manson are located within the Wapato basin. Water quantity and water quality are significantly affected by the myriad of users and demands in the lower Wapato basin. Both the Yakama Nation and Colville Confederated Tribes have an interest in the watershed as it is part of their traditional homeland and contains many resources upon which generations of tribal members depended. Accordingly, an extensive list of stakeholders has expressed an interest in the establishment of the Lake Chelan Collaborative to guide the management of water quantity, water quality and other resource concerns in the watershed. A diverse and broad-based membership of this reinvigorated watershed group is critical to avoiding pitfalls and achieving agreement on strategies to restore the watershed.

The existing watershed group is a relic of Lake Chelan watershed planning which was completed in 2012 with adoption of the Lake Chelan Watershed Plan by the Lake Chelan Watershed Planning Unit (LCWPU). The LCWPU was a small watershed group with a limited focus on high-level water quantity and water quality issues. The LCWPU is not broad-based and does not reflect the diversity of interests in the Lake Chelan watershed. Today, the existing watershed group membership is a mix of the historic LCWPU and new interested parties, and no official

actions or efforts are taken to incorporate new members or perform outreach to solicit new members. That is, membership of the existing watershed group is on an ad hoc basis. The original LCWPU membership was quite limited and included the following:

- Chelan County
- City of Chelan
- Lake Chelan Reclamation District
- Chelan County PUD #1
- Chelan-Douglas Health District (no longer participates)
- Washington Department of Ecology
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Department of Health (no longer participates)
- Washington Department of Natural Resources (no longer participates)
- US Army Corps of Engineers (no longer participates)
- US Forest Service

Given the limited and ad hoc nature of the existing watershed group, there is broad recognition of the need to expand and diversify membership. The following table lists potential stakeholders for the new Lake Chelan Collaborative who will be approached through direct outreach to determine their interest in participating. Existing watershed group members are in **BOLD**. Entities submitting letter of support for this grant application are denoted by *. The existing watershed group membership does not represent the full array of diverse membership that is necessary for collaborative and inclusive watershed restoration planning.

Entity	Sector
*Chelan County Natural Resource Department (CCNRD)	Local Agency
*U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	Federal Agency
National Park Service (NPS)	Federal Agency
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	Federal Agency
U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS)	Federal Agency
Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)	State Agency
*Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)	State Agency
*Chelan County Public Utility District (PUD)	Local Utility District
Cascadia Conservation District (CCD)	Local Agency
*Lake Chelan Reclamation District	Local Agency
*City of Chelan	Local Agency
Chelan County Flood Control Zone District	Local Agency
Manson Community Council	Local Advisory Council
*Lake Chelan Research Institute	Research-based non-profit organization

Lake Chelan Recreation Development Foundation (LCRDF)	Local Non-Profit Organization
*Chelan Basin Conservancy (CBC)	Environmental
Lake Chelan Now	Local Media
Go Lake Chelan	Local Media
All Things Lake Chelan	Local Media
Washington State Parks	State Agency
Chelan-Douglas Health District (CDHD)	Local Agency
Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)	State Agency
Colville Confederated Tribes	Tribal government
Yakama Nation	Tribal government
Chelan Douglas Land Trust	Environmental
Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce	Tourism
Lake Chelan Community Center	Community-Based Organization
Lake Chelan Boat Club	Recreation
Lake Chelan Yacht Club	Recreation
Fishing Guide Community	Recreation
Agricultural Community	Local farmers and irrigators
Community for the Advancement of Family Education (CAFÉ)	Community-Based Organization
Chelan Valley Housing Trust	Community-Based Organization
Landowners	Community Members
North Central Washington Homebuilders' Association	Land Development
North Central Washington Association of Realtors	Land Development
Lake Chelan Wine Alliance	Local farmers and business

There is considerable support from watershed stakeholders and existing watershed group members to build off historic planning efforts and reinvigorate resource planning in Lake Chelan with a broader and more diverse set of stakeholders. The stakeholders listed in the table above are either participating in the existing watershed group, have a vested interest in lake Chelan, or both.

- Chelan County Natural Resources Department has agreed to be the lead coordinator for the effort and has committed \$10,000/year for five (5) years for Lake Chelan and tributary water quality sampling. The County Commissioners have adopted an applicant support resolution for this application.
- The City of Chelan has provided a letter of support and has committed \$25,000/year for five (5) years to support Lake Chelan and tributary water quality sampling

- The US Forest Service has committed funding for Twenty-Five Mile Creek water quality monitoring and restoration as well as Central Washington Initiative funding for forest health treatments in the watershed. USFS has provided a letter of support for this application.
- The National Park Service has provided funding for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention efforts through a pilot boat inspection program
- U.S. Geological Survey is undertaking a Bull Trout Reintroduction Study in Lake Chelan and working with the existing watershed group on this effort.
- Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is supporting water rights processing in the Lake Chelan basin and is administering the Lake Chelan Water Reserve by agreement with Chelan County PUD. Ecology additionally support water quality improvement projects in the basin.
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife was a co-author of the Lake Chelan Subbasin Plan with Chelan County and provides technical expertise in the watershed. WDFW provided a letter of support for this grant application.
- Chelan County Public Utility District (PUD) owns and manages the FERC-licensed Lake Chelan Dam for hydropower production. The PUD has multiple obligations under its license and administers the Lake Chelan Reserve with Ecology. The PUD provided a letter of support for this application.
- Cascadia Conservation District works with individual landowners and farmers to implement conservation practices and projects and supports engagement of historically underserved populations.
- Lake Chelan Reclamation District is a Bureau of Reclamation facility and supports water quality efforts in the basin, including \$10,000/year for Lake Chelan and tributary water quality sampling. The District provided a letter of support for this application.
- The Lake Chelan Research Institute (LCRI) is a relatively new organization in the basin. LCRI's board is comprised of research scientists who will provide technical support to the planning effort. LCRI additionally provided a letter of support for this application.
- The Chelan Basin Conservancy (CBC) is a local conservation organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Lake Chelan watershed. CBC provided a letter of support for this application.

Outreach efforts will focus on engaging the full spectrum of stakeholder interests and likely identifying new stakeholders not previously considered. The Lake Chelan Collaborative will hire a professional facilitator and develop and outreach strategy for stakeholder participation in the planning effort. The outreach strategy will emphasize a diversity of approaches to “meet people where they are.” Outreach methods will include the following:

- Direct outreach to existing watershed group members and potential stakeholders
- Attendance at community events
- Special events organized specifically for stakeholder engagement, such as community center meetings
- Development of brochures, flyers and newsletters, in both English and Spanish

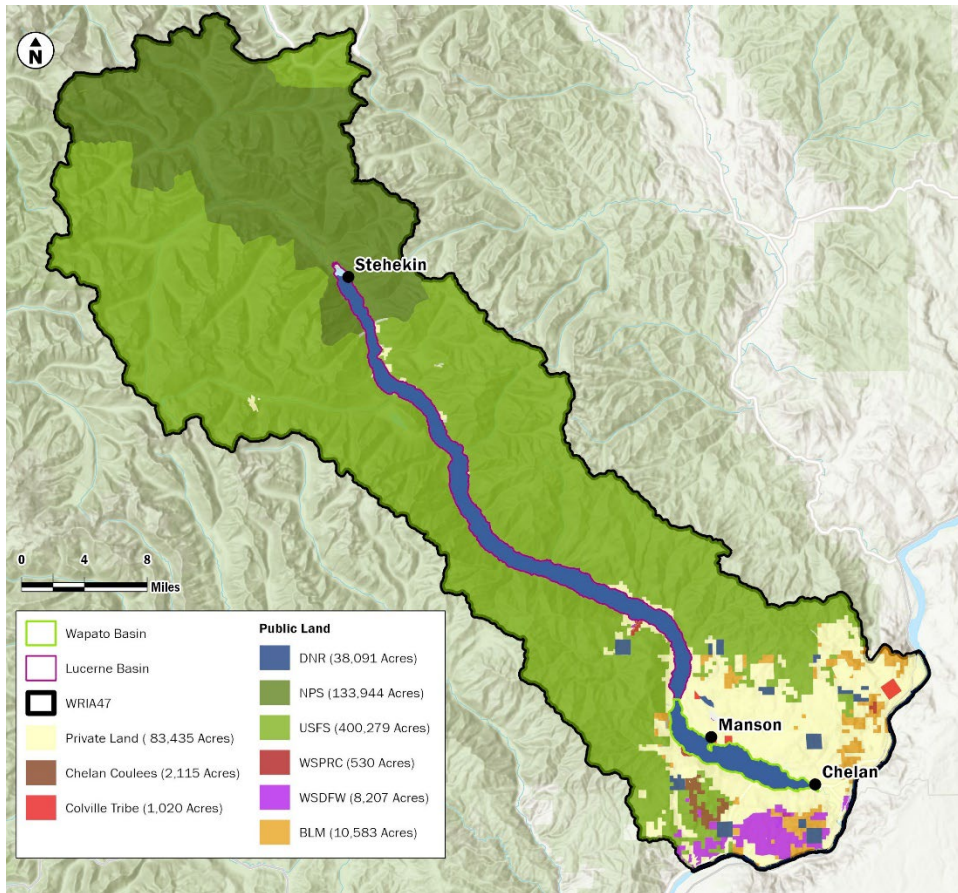
- Email list serves and social media engagement
- Other strategies identified in the communications plan

The existing watershed group in Lake Chelan, a relic of the 2012 Lake Chelan Watershed Planning Unit (LCWPU), is largely an information-sharing forum and no longer functions as originally intended. Meeting attendance and membership is on an ad hoc basis, and the PCWPU no longer makes decisions as an organized entity.

There is significant emphasis in Chelan County on engaging historically underserved populations. CCNRD sponsors the Chelan County Climate Resilience Roundtable, which emphasizes engagement with community-based organizations to facilitate engagement in planning efforts. CCNRD is additionally sponsoring a three-county EPA regional grant focused on engaging historically underserved populations and the effects of wildfire smoke on sensitive populations, including wildfire preparedness for underserved populations. We plan to draw on these efforts and relationships as we build the membership of the Lake Chelan Collaborative.

Sub-criterion A2 – Geographic Scope

The Lake Chelan watershed is located in north central Washington and lies entirely within Chelan County. The watershed consists of 599,905 acres (937 sq. mi.). The upper portion of the Lake Chelan watershed is within the North Cascades National Park and the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. The upper and middle parts of the basin are largely in the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF). Most of the lower basin, which contains the majority of the development, is privately owned. Lake Chelan, which comprises approximately 52 miles of the 75-mile-long basin, is the third deepest freshwater lake in the nation ([RH2 Engineering 2012](#)) and the largest and deepest natural lake in Washington. The watershed lies within an elongated, steeply sloped fjord basin formed by two glaciers. The Lake has an average width of 1.5 miles, a maximum depth of 1,486 feet, and it drains 2,393 sq. km. It is bordered on the north by the Sawtooth Mountains and on the south by the Entiat and Chelan Mountains and the Glacier Peak Complex. Water from Lake Chelan flows from its southern end into the shortest river in Washington, the 4.1-mile-long Chelan River. This river falls 400 feet in its descent through a steep, rocky gorge to the Columbia River.



Map 2: Lake Chelan Watershed Overview and Land Ownership

To ensure that all interests, relevant information and perspectives are heard and considered, the Lake Chelan Collaborative will actively seek out stakeholders from the entire Lake Chelan watershed using targeted outreach. While the critical resource needs and challenges are primarily in the lower Wapato basin of Lake Chelan, representation and awareness from the entire basin is important. Establishing a consensus-based watershed group that isn't disproportionately represented by one agency or individual will provide a level playing field and an opportunity to gather, share and examine all relevant information and interests in an open and interactive environment. Previous planning efforts in Lake Chelan have under-represented tribal interests and the Hispanic community, and a special emphasis will be placed on engaging these groups.

The majority of the upper Lucerne basin is owned and managed by the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest, and a small portion near the remote unincorporated community of Stehekin is owned by the National Park Service and designated as the North Cascades National Park. The lower Wapato subbasin is predominantly privately owned and contains the city of Chelan and community of Manson. Lands within this subbasin are far more densely populated and represent a diversity of user groups including: tree fruit and wine agriculture, recreational amenities, residential development, underserved groups in the Manson and Chelan areas, tribal ownership, and tourism related businesses. The Lake Chelan Watershed Plan address watershed issues

throughout the lake, but with an additional focus on the Wapato Subbasin due to increased complexity of landownership and use and the corresponding increased potential for collaborative efforts to yield long-term solutions.

Evaluation Criterion B – Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs

Sub-criterion B1 – Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Lake Chelan is Washington’s largest natural lake and an important tributary to the Columbia River. Lake Chelan is an “ultra-oligotrophic” lake that is the third deepest lake in the U.S. and exhibits the highest classification of water quality and water clarity in Washington State. The pristine waters of Lake Chelan are key to local tourism (over 2 million tourists visit each year) and providing excellent water quality for potable supply, fish and wildlife, and domestic and irrigation uses. Lake Chelan has long been considered “too big to fail” due to its size and magnitude.

Now, there is a growing understanding that trouble lurks in the deep waters of Lake Chelan. Water supply limitations, troubling water trends and other resource concerns point to the need for understanding Lake Chelan and planning for restoration and protection of the lake’s values and resources. Phosphorous levels have shown a dramatic spike beyond water quality standards, and nearshore algae and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) concentrations have increased. These observations are likely sentinels for long-term change which, without focused and integrated watershed planning could impact the entire lake. Nearshore algae growth, high vulnerability status to establishment of invasive Quagga and Zebra mussels, and the diminishing water supply reserve are ripe topics for a comprehensive watershed planning effort. Considering likely climate change impacts, these issues could prove disastrous to the aquatic food web and delivery of adequate high-quality drinking and irrigation water.

Water Supply

There is substantial conflict looming over water supply in Lake Chelan given the diminishing supply, existing agreement, growth projections and climate change pressures.

Background: The Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project, originally constructed by the Chelan Electric Company, currently is operated by Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (Chelan PUD) under a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Under state-issued 1925 water rights and a 1992 agreement with the Department of Ecology (Ecology), Chelan PUD holds the reservoir right to store water behind the Chelan dam and to use the entire flow of the Chelan River for hydropower generation, except for 65,000 acre-feet per year (afy) for existing and future domestic and irrigation uses in the Lake Chelan Water Basin. This 65,000 afy is frequently referred to as the Lake Chelan Reserve (Reserve).

The 1992 Agreement between Ecology and Chelan PUD affirmed the 65,000-afy Reserve for non-project purposes, which was approved by FERC in 1993. As of 2017, there are more than 150 applications on file for new surface or groundwater permits in the Lake Chelan water basin. In order to move forward on processing pending water right applications, Chelan PUD and Ecology entered into an Amendment of the 1992 Agreement to clarify and streamline the regulatory process for allocating water rights from the Reserve and a Memorandum of Understanding to establish accounting business rules to accurately estimate the amount of the Reserve remaining for allocation.

In 2014, Chelan County and Ecology launched a local Coordinated Cost-Reimbursement Program (Program) to allow processing of applications for new water right permits from the Reserve. Under the Program, water right and water use information was compiled in an electronic database Reserve Accounting System. This Reserve Accounting System was updated by Ecology and Chelan PUD in 2017 during research to verify the available amount of water remaining. An estimated 6,300 acre-feet per year remain unallocated from the Reserve and available for new surface water right permits, new ground water permits, and permit-exempt groundwater uses authorized under RCW 90.44.050. The Reserve accounting will provide a transparent and more accurate accounting of water allocated from the Reserve, and will be updated at least annually. Groundwater and surface water right permits issued from the Reserve will be allocated as secondary permits from the Lake Chelan Reservoir, in accordance with the State Water Code (RCW 90.03.370).

Meeting Future Needs: There is only a finite quantity of water in the Reserve, and the remaining amount is insufficient to provide water to every applicant. When the water in the Reserve is fully allocated, Ecology cannot allow new permitted or permit-exempt uses to be debited against it. Chelan PUD manages the Lake Chelan Reservoir to generate power to meet obligations to its customer-ratepayers, and requirements of its FERC license requirements, including maintaining the lake within specific elevation levels and providing downstream flows for fish. Although Lake Chelan is a large reservoir, allowing additional consumptive water use from Lake Chelan could impair Chelan PUD's ability to meet its power generation and license obligations. A primary focus of the Lake Chelan Collaborative will be to understand the water supply challenges and develop durable solutions to address future needs in the watershed.

Water Quality

Lake Chelan currently exhibits the highest classification of water quality and clarity in Washington State. In open water, far from the shoreline, the lake exhibits remarkable long-term stability in water clarity, nutrient concentrations, and growth of algae. However, the nearshore environment of Lake Chelan is less stable, undergoing a transition in which algae (i.e. periphyton) along the shoreline have increased and aquatic invasive species (AIS) have expanded over the last few decades, likely as a result of increased development in the Wapato Basin and warming nearshore temperatures under climate change. Nearshore water quality and algae monitoring have recently been initiated to track these key metrics. Other water quality issues include an alarming recent increase in nutrients, ongoing elevated DDT and PCB levels in soil

and fish tissue, chemicals (e.g. benzene) from motorized watercrafts, and post-fire impacts such as ash and debris flows.

The Lake Chelan Wapato Basin Total Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report (Ecology 2011) was developed as a preventative measure and cites that between 1987 and 2007, phosphorus remained below the state water quality standard. However, recent water quality sampling conducted under the LTMP has shown an alarming spike in phosphorus levels far beyond the state water quality standard of 4.5 parts per billion (ppb) to as high as 12 ppb. Likely sources of increased phosphorus are stormwater run-off, ash deposition from wildfires, erosion, recreational activity and land conversion. Another localized source of phosphorus and nitrogen is Canadian Goose droppings. Chelan represents ideal habitat for Canadian Geese, and without predators or management the population has exploded in the 20 years.

DDT and PCBs are legacy chemicals found in the soils around lower Lake Chelan and are released through soil-disturbing activities, especially agriculture and increasing development (the Lake Chelan area is experiencing the highest rates of development in Chelan county). Recent (2021) sampling by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) confirms that concentrations of DDT in Lake Chelan mackinaw (lake trout) remain among the highest levels reported in the U.S.

Other water quality concerns included in Lake Chelan include growing concern of benzene and other chemical additives from motorized lake recreation, and post-fire effects. It is well-documented that a chemical smell can be detected by lake users and residents during and after high traffic weekends and growing concern that motorboating is contributing to water quality issues. High intensity fires have occurred in the sub-watersheds of major Lake Chelan tributaries, such as the 25-mile Creek which burned 22,117 acres of upland and riparian areas. High intensity fires such as these are associated with post-fire debris flows that can increase nutrients, pose hazards to communities, and result in impaired water clarity and drinking water quality. High intensity fires are projected to increase under climate change in Chelan County.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Based on two separate ranking tools developed by US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Lake Chelan is classified as High Risk for invasion of quagga and zebra mussels (QZM, [CCNRD 2020](#)). The results indicated that with just slight changes in water quality parameters (i.e., dissolved calcium), Lake Chelan is at high risk for QZM establishment. Introduction and establishment of AIS would have a profoundly negative impact on water quality and ecology, and degrade the effectiveness of current water distribution systems, thus putting both the tourism and agricultural economic drivers within the basin at risk.

QZM infestation in Lake Chelan would dramatically alter the delicate balance of the aquatic food web, for impacts on native species like ESA-listed Bull Trout and Kokanee, as well as Lake Trout that are a popular game species and support the Fishing Guide community. However, no comprehensive plan currently exists to prevent this infestation. QZM can also bioaccumulate

harmful chemicals and heavy metals, leading to increased concentrations of chemicals and heavy metals in recreational fish, and subsequent implications for human health. Economic impacts are equally devastating should QZM become established in Lake Chelan.

There have been some efforts to gain a better understanding of the current extent of the AIS that are known to occur in Lake Chelan. While they address key data gaps and galvanize public interest, these efforts do not effectively reduce the risk of QZ establishment. Robust early monitoring and detection programs, proactive management of existing AIS infestations, and mandatory watercraft inspection programs are implemented in other areas of Washington; however, Lake Chelan does not currently have any such programs in place. Comprehensive planning is needed to inform what specific management actions are needed to reduce this risk.

Climate Change

The Washington Department of Ecology Office of the Columbia River (OCR) produces a Columbia River Basin Water Supply Report every five (5) years. The latest report was completed in 2021 and included climate change projections for water resources for Columbia River watershed, including the Lake Chelan watershed. Notably, the report found several troubling challenges for Lake Chelan water supply, including the following:

- **Earlier supply timing:** The timing of center of mass for supply is expected to occur 17 days earlier by 2040.
- **Historical snowmelt ratio:** Historically, 69% of run-off has been produced by snowmelt, and snowmelt is predicted to decrease substantially.
- **Agricultural demand:** Agricultural demand, the largest demand in the basin, is projected to remain constant through 2040 despite irrigation efficiency improvements
- **Residential demand:** Summer residential consumptive water use is expected to increase by 49 acre-feet by 2040
- **Decreasing minimum flows:** The lowest 7-day average flow that occurs once every 10 years is projected to decrease by 10.7 cfs by 2040.

Forest Health

Fire risk is very high in the northwest portion of the Lake Chelan landscape, and high to very high on private property with homes on both sides of Lake Chelan. Post-fire debris flows are significant contributors to impaired water quality conditions in Lake Chelan. Projected warming over the next 20-40 years will likely shift climate conditions that are currently suitable for dry forest at lower elevations and on south-facing slopes towards conditions that may no longer support forest. Recent landscape evaluations completed by Washington Department of Natural Resources recommended forest health treatments on over 12,500 acres in the watershed to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. This includes reducing density in young forests and to maintain open conditions with low fuel loads, thereby increasing resilience. Proactive maintenance, primarily using mechanical and prescribed fire treatments, will also reduce fire risk to communities. High priority locations for potential treatments that maximize forest health and wildfire response benefit are concentrated in the northern and eastern portions of the watershed.

Sub-criterion B2 – Project Benefits

The primary purpose of the Lake Chelan Collaborative is to effectively engage broad stakeholder participation in understanding the resource needs in the Lake Chelan watershed and then working together to identify priority issues and strategies to address those issues. While many resource needs have been identified in the past, what is needed is better working relationships within the watershed, shared understanding of the resource needs and additional trusted information to identify and address the issues of concern. There are significant benefits, then, to both ***Task A: Watershed Group Development*** and ***Task B: Restoration Planning*** to develop a broadly-supported watershed restoration plan for Lake Chelan.

Task A: Watershed Group Development Benefits

The durability and effectiveness of a watershed restoration plan is only as strong and resilient as the watershed group behind it. Complex resource issues require stakeholder diversity and a common understanding of the science and values behind it. Watershed group development will support collaborative understanding and problem-solving of Lake Chelan’s critical watershed issues.

Water supply challenges are likely the most difficult watershed issues that the Lake Chelan Collaborative will address. Given that the Lake Chelan Reserve is near depletion, future water supply management that addresses current and future needs will only be successful with all affected stakeholders at the table. Without the watershed group, water supply allocation in the watershed will become a system of winners and losers. There are other water resource forums within Chelan County, such as the Icicle Work Group, where the collaborative model has proven successful in addressing water supply challenges.

Given the breadth and diversity of ***water quality*** issues in Lake Chelan, the watershed group will be an ideal forum to understand and prioritize how to tackle the myriad of issues. A primary function of the watershed group will be to understand the water quality issues facing the lake and how to collect data to support decision-making. Short-term water quality data collection can be notoriously misleading since it may mischaracterize water quality trends based on a limited data set. The watershed group will have to weigh data collection and level of certainty in decision-making with taking action to address emerging water quality problems.

One of the primary benefits of the watershed group will be to address ***aquatic invasive species*** and, in particular, development and support of a mandatory boat inspection program in Lake Chelan to prevent a Quagga and Zebra mussel infestation. With funding support from the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service, CCNRD has already carried out a limited voluntary boat inspection program., which was well-received by the public and visitors. The watershed group can support development of a strategy to implement a permanent through the resources and authorities of watershed group members.

Climate change and its effects on the Lake Chelan watershed, including **forest health**, are ideal topics for a broad-based watershed group to address. The science and politics of climate change lend themselves to collaborative discussion and evaluation in a local community, and their implications for future watershed management can be de-mystified in a broad-based watershed group forum.

Task B: Restoration Planning Benefits

The primary benefits from restoration planning by a diverse watershed group are a common understanding of the issues facing the Lake Chelan watershed and agreement on what actions to implement. It is through the work of agreement and compromise that the true benefits of restoration planning can be realized. The development of a watershed restoration plan by a diverse watershed group presents the best chance for successful resource management in Lake Chelan. Restoration planning will produce a common understanding of critical watershed issues, from which a watershed restoration plan can be developed.

Water supply can be understood by updating historical Lake Chelan reservoir evaluations, evaluating potential conservation opportunities in the watershed basin by demand sector can identify potential agricultural, irrigation efficiency, residential lawn buyback program and other conservation opportunities to stretch supplies further. The watershed group can consider new emerging conservation and storage opportunities that are not currently implemented in the basin e.g., shade cloth conservation and small alluvial storage projects, and quantify the longevity of the Lake Chelan Reserve that would result from implementation of future conservation and storage projects that are broadly supported.

Water Quality issues can be addressed in a number of ways in Lake Chelan given the diversity of water quality challenges. The watershed group can evaluate and define target water columns for threshold DDT concentrations and integrate findings and coordinate with data collection efforts associated with the Lake Chelan DDT Source Control Demonstration Project, a proposal which was sponsored by CCNRD, LCRI, and the Washington Department of Ecology and will likely receive funding from EPA in 2024. The watershed group can integrate findings and coordinate with data collection efforts associated with the Lake Chelan Twenty-Five Mile Post-Fire Restoration Project, a restoration and monitoring project sponsored by CCNRD that will be implemented in 2023 and 2024. The project will evaluate efficacy of the post-fire sediment reduction treatment and develop benchmarks for widespread post-fire implementation, perhaps serving as a model for other post-fire restoration treatments in Lake Chelan. Additionally, the watershed group can map areas of near-shore critical concern for harmful algae and periphyton blooms and consider long-term water quality trends, including water clarity dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity, pH, total phosphorous, and chlorophyll, further delineating areas of potential treatment and success.

Aquatic invasive species management will benefit from restoration planning through partnerships in data collection and management and implementation of AIS programs. The

watershed group can develop additional AIS surveys and data collection efforts and produce graphics describing abundance and trend patterns of observed AIS species, including Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, freshwater clams and Chinese mystery snails. The restoration plan can dovetail with existing AIS planning and lay the groundwork for an integrated AIS management plan to limit the spread of existing invasive species and prevent the introduction of AIS species into Lake Chelan. Additionally, other waterbodies will benefit from Lake Chelan AIS efforts through reduction of AIS transmission outside the watershed.

Climate change and **forest health** loom large as significant drivers of future watershed management, and an integrated restoration planning effort will tackle these large issues. Additionally, given the overwhelming and potentially catastrophic impacts of climate change and forest health, development of a resilient Lake Chelan community can only be undertaken through comprehensive resource planning.

We expect that the entire list of proposed stakeholders in the Lake Chelan Collaborative and the broader Lake Chelan community will benefit from watershed group development and restoration planning in the Lake Chelan watershed. We acknowledge that resource limitations and time constraints may limit or prioritize issues in the absence of engagement, i.e. some stakeholders may not be able to participate equally in the restoration planning process. We will make every effort to ensure an equitable process and broad benefits to the watershed group stakeholders.

Evaluation Criterion C – Readiness to Proceed

The table below outlines the main activities and their associated tasks, milestones, responsible party(ies), timeframe and costs. Activities including LCC include facilitator costs. Activities and associated timelines are subject to some slight change due to stakeholder needs and requests.

Task	Milestones	Start Date	End Date	Direct Cost
<i>Activity 1: Organizational Development (Task A) XXX</i>				\$45,000
Hire facilitator	Facilitator hired by CCNRD	1/1/25	3/1/25	\$2,000
Recruit stakeholders	All stakeholder seats filled with available participants	1/1/25	6/1/25	\$17,000
Develop organizational structure and operational procedures	Meeting schedule set, bylaws adopted, committees established by LCC	2/1/25	6/1/25	\$15,000
Develop mission statement, vision statement and goals	LCC adopts mission statement, vision statement and goals	2/1/25	7/1/25	\$12,000

Activity 2: Stakeholder Education (Task A)				\$75,000
Develop a communication and outreach plan	Communications plan adopted by LCC	3/1/25	9/1/25	\$16,000
Present existing information on the Lake Chelan watershed	Resource topic presentations made on existing data by LCC members and technical consultant	4/1/25	4/1/26	\$21,000
Develop public outreach materials	Educational materials developed and outreach events calendared by LCC members and facilitator	5/1/25	11/1/25	\$23,000
Conducting outreach related to the Lake Chelan Collaborative	Calendared events attended, media coverage, outreach materials distributed by LCC members and facilitator	10/1/25	3/1/26	\$15,000
Activity 3: Research (TASKS A & B)				\$90,000
Hire technical consultant	Technical consultant hired CCNRD XXX	1/1/25	3/1/25	\$2,000
Compile existing data	Existing data sourced and compiled into publicly accessible location by CCNRD XXX	1/1/25	7/1/25	\$8,000
Research existing resource planning documents	All known resource plans compiled and reviewed by LCC members and technical consultant	1/1/25	8/1/25	\$36,000
Identify essential data gaps	Essential data gaps agreed upon by LCC	3/1/25	11/1/25	\$18,000
Develop strategies to fill data gaps	Data gathering projects identified and partners tasked with projects	10/1/25	4/1/26	\$26,000
Activity 4: Restoration Planning (TASK B)				\$90,000
Identify major challenges for water quantity, water	Challenges documented by technical consultant	11/1/25	6/1/26	\$22,000

quality and other resource concerns				
Prioritize challenges	Challenges prioritized by LCC	6/1/26	1/1/27	\$13,000
Interview watershed group members and stakeholders to identify potential restoration and protection projects	Potential restoration and protection opportunities identified by LCC members	6/1/26	5/1/27	\$20,000
Assemble Lake Chelan Collaborative Watershed Restoration Plan	Plan completed and endorsed by LCC	5/1/27	12/31/27	\$35,000

Evaluation Criterion D – Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities -

Climate Change

Please provide specific details and examples on how the project will address the impacts of climate change and help combat the climate crisis.

Recent observations in Lake Chelan suggest the effects of climate change are already occurring. climate change in the Columbia River Basin is expected to lead to warmer air temperatures that result in more precipitation falling as rain rather than snow, altered stream timing, flashier floods and lower base flows, and increased water temperatures. Signs of the effects of warming water temperature, specifically observed increases in algae and AIS along the shoreline of Lake Chelan, are likely sentinels for long-term changes that could impact the entire lake. Warming water temperatures due to climate change favors harmful algae growth ([EPA 2023](#)) and can also lead to higher growth rates in invasive quagga and zebra mussels ([Bunch 2021](#)). Extent and duration of wildfires is also expected to increase under climate change, and is already apparent in large catastrophic fires in the area ([Gaines et al 2012](#)). For example, the 25-mile creek fire burned 22,117 acres within the Wapato Basin of Lake Chelan, including both upland and riparian areas and 3,910 acres of high severity fire.

These examples are signs that climate change in Lake Chelan is already happening and that a revived planning effort that takes these changes into account is needed. The proposed updated Lake Chelan Watershed Restoration Plan will include integrated climate change planning focused on preventing harmful algae blooms and AIS establishment that could fundamentally alter water clarity and the ecological food web. The plan could include forest management planning including post-fire restoration and recommended prevention actions for areas at risk for high severity fires (i.e. thinning, prescribed burns). With these focused and integrated climate

change planning efforts, Lake Chelan can remain the ultra-oligotrophic, pristine, and national jewel it is today.

Does this proposed project strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change? Does the proposed project contribute to climate change resiliency in other ways not described above?

Scientists predict municipal and agricultural watersheds, such as those found in Chelan County (agriculture/forestry constitutes 23 percent of the local economy) may lose the capacity to deliver water at current levels due to the impacts of climate change ([Gaines et al 2012](#), [Chelan County 2019](#)). This reality of pending water scarcity is compounded by the diminishing Lake Chelan Reserve. As described, there is only a finite quantity of water in the current Reserve, and the remaining amount may be insufficient to provide water to future uses, and given the rapid development of the Chelan and Manson area, will likely run out in a few years. This is an issue that cannot be ignored and is in need of a comprehensive solution, especially given the additional threat of climate change. The proposed planning effort will include working with municipal stakeholders and the Chelan PUD to develop a matrix of strategies and solutions that both allows the PUD to meet power generation and license obligations, and augments or extends the reserve to meet future needs under climate change. The expanded watershed group will allow these strategies to be discussed and a comprehensive solution agreed upon. In turn, this will increase the sustainability of the water supply to preserve both the economic and physical health of future generations.

Benefits to Disadvantaged, Underserved, and Tribal Communities

Disadvantaged and Underserved Community Benefits

The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool identifies two disadvantaged communities within the proposed project area, defined as the Wapato sub-basin of the Lake Chelan Watershed: the communities encompassing and surrounding the towns of Manson (census tract 53007960400) and Chelan (census tract 53007960300). The Chelan community is 31% Hispanic and the Manson community is 45% Hispanic, with an additional 26% in Manson identified as “other races”. Hispanics in the U.S are an underserved community that historically have faced racial, ethnic, and anti-immigrant prejudice, including discrimination in employment, housing and education (Feagin and Cobas 2014).

The Manson and Chelan communities are identified as disadvantaged due to a combination of being considered low income (large proportion of the population with income less than or equal to twice the federal poverty level) and one or more hazardous climate change factors above the 90th percentile, including population loss from natural hazards (Manson is in the 97th percentile, and Chelan the 90th percentile) and flood risk (Manson is in the 94th percentile, Chelan also has significant risk at the 83rd percentile). Although not above the burden threshold of 90th percentile, the Climate and Economic Justice Screening tool rates wildfire risk to properties as significantly high – Chelan is in the 86th percentile and Manson is in the 83rd.

The proposed watershed restoration planning effort will improve public health and safety in the Manson and Chelan communities in multiple ways including developing a plan to sustain reliable and high quality water supply, integrated planning for climate hazards, and solidifying partnerships with non-profits currently engaging the underserved Hispanic community. As described, concerns have been raised (i.e. periphyton, harmful algae blooms and rising nutrient levels) regarding the longevity of the pristine nature of Lake Chelan and its current state as a high-quality drinking water source. This is coupled with the fact that the water supply reserve to support new growth is running out. Most of the growth that makes the project area the fastest growing in Chelan county is composed of large, expensive homes. As described, this project will include integrated planning to extend or augment the diminishing water Reserve that is available for new growth. This integrated planning will also assure that the high quality drinking water will continue to be available for the underserved communities in the area by including these communities in the reserve, planning actions to preserve water quality, and actively engaging and advocating for these communities.

Preserving Lake water quality is also important to the high-quality recreation experiences that algae free public beaches provide. Observational data of recreational users at Lakeside, Don Morse, and Chelan River parks indicate Hispanic people as one of the highest user groups during the summer months. Preserving the water quality at these public spaces provides a free way for underserved communities to increase quality of life.

Climate change is projected to impact hydrology in Chelan County through increased 100-year stream flows and decreased baseflows ([Hamlet et al., 2013](#)). Research also suggests warmer and drier conditions will likely lead to longer fire seasons with increased fire frequency and extent ([Halofsky et al 2020](#)). These conditions will increase climate change hazards that threaten underserved communities such as flooding and property loss due to fire. Large destructive debris flows, triggered by heavy rain on post fire landscapes, have destroyed campgrounds and deposited large amounts of sediment and debris in Lake Chelan. This planning effort will include integrated climate planning to reduce threats to underserved communities, such as systematic post-fire restoration and erosion protection, stream restoration and natural water storage opportunities to decrease the risk of flooding.

Lastly, this project will include a focused effort to engage underserved communities in the planning process. By leveraging partnerships, CCNRD will engage the community in education and stewardship events. For example, CCNRD partnered with Team Naturaleza, as well as other groups, on a Wenatchee River clean-up event and community celebration. The event had outreach booths from partner organizations and included strategies to actively engage the Hispanic/Spanish speaking community by connecting to partner list-serves, posting flyers at Mexican grocery stores, and promoting cultural inclusion such as Mariachi performances. CCNRD will work with partners to provide a similar experience in a location near Lake Chelan.

Tribal Benefits

Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe? Benefits can include, but are not limited to, public health and safety by addressing water quality, new water supplies, economic growth opportunities, or improving water management.

This project is located on ceded lands of the Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Confederated Tribes. Although CCNRD closely coordinates with local tribal governments of both the Yakamas and the Colvilles, such as the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board and the Icicle Work Group, the Yakamas or the Colvilles are not currently involved or represented in the watershed group. The project will directly serve Tribes through direct stakeholder outreach and inclusion in the watershed group.

In addition to ceded lands, the Colville Wapato Family has owned a total of 1,020 acres of land on within the project area for over 100 years, when the “Moses Agreement” entitled certain Tribal members could claim allotted land in what formally was the Columbia Reservation. Much of this land is located at “Wapato Point” which is directly on Lake Chelan and is a treasured site where tribal people have gathered for hundreds of years to meet, celebrate and honor the land (“[The Rich History of Wapato Point](#)”). The land includes undeveloped land in addition to the 12 Tribes Lake Chelan Casino and RV park. Therefore, efforts of this planning effort to secure a water reserve for the future, and plan specific measures to preserve and improve water quality, including AIS management and near-shore periphyton growth, will directly benefit the Wapato family and the Covilles who depend on the tourism the pristine Lake Chelan basin attracts.

Lastly, the proposed project aligns with Tribal priorities, as outlined in the [Yakama Nation Fisheries Strategic Plan](#) and on the [Colville Reservation’s Fish and Wildlife webpage](#). Specifically, this project strives to meet the core goal of the Yakama Nation Fisheries, to “Make It Like It Was” through planning restoration projects, as well as the Colville Tribes mission to protect viable native fish species, through proposed actions to prevent AIS and periphyton establishment that threatens the Lake Chelan food web.

Does the proposed project support Reclamation’s Tribal trust responsibilities or a Reclamation activity with a Tribe?

As described above, this project supports Reclamation’s Tribal trust responsibilities by directly pursuing collaboration with Tribal governments in the expanded LCWPU, and supporting tribal priorities.

Project Budget

Details regarding all costs included in this proposal are provided as a separate Budget Narrative attachment in Grants.gov. Please see this Budget Narrative for detailed information and rationale regarding all items included in each budget Object Class Categories. A summary table of funding sources is provided below.

Summary Table of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Non-Federal Entities	
1. None	\$0
Non-Federal Subtotal	\$0
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	\$300,000

Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

The activities and tasks associated with this project are limited to outreach, planning, meeting facilitation, reviewing existing data, data analysis, coordination, and collaboration, and writing and editing. Therefore impacts associated with NEPA, ESA, and NHPA are not relevant to this work.

Required Permits or Approvals

The activities included in this proposal do not require permits or approvals

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

The proposed project has no overlap between any other active or anticipated proposals regarding activities, costs, and key personnel commitment. This is a unique proposal for funding an integral component of project implementation. Additionally, this proposal does not in any way duplicate any proposal that has been submitted for funding consideration from any source.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

No actual or potential conflict of interest exists for this proposal. Procurement of supplies, and services will follow all relevant laws and regulations. No lobbying will occur as part of this project.

Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

Chelan County most recently was required to complete a Single Audit Report for January 01, 2019 - December 31, 2019. Chelan County EIN is 916001297, the report number is 18751220192 and it is available through the Audit Clearinghouse website.

Resolution No.109

RE: Resolution supporting Chelan County application to the US Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program for development of a Lake Chelan watershed group and watershed restoration plan.

WHEREAS, the Lake Chelan watershed in Chelan County, Washington, has a number of critical resource needs for water quantity, water quality, water quantity and habitat improvement and protection; and

WHEREAS, stakeholders in the Lake Chelan basin desire to work together to develop a watershed group and watershed restoration plan to address these critical resource needs; and

WHEREAS, the Chelan County Natural Resources Department has the capability to administer the grant funds should they be awarded;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Chelan County Natural Resource Director is authorized to make formal application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for grant assistance and enter into a funding agreement; and,
2. The Chelan County Natural Resources Director has reviewed the application on behalf of Chelan County and supports the submittal of the application submitted; and,
3. Chelan County certifies that resources and support indicated in the grant application shall be provided if the grant application is successful; and,
4. The Natural Resource Director and staff will work with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a financial assistance agreement; and,
5. This resolution becomes part of the grant application.

DATED at Wenatchee, Washington this 4th day of December 2023.

BOARD OF CHELAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DocuSigned by:
Tiffany Gering
1B11A002737B455...

DocuSigned by:
TIFFANY GERING, CHAIR
Kevin Overbay
24FCA9F2D0BF451...

DocuSigned by:
KEVIN OVERBAY, COMMISSIONER
Shon Smith
2D26D7FFE35B4DA...

DocuSigned by:
ATTEST ANABEL TORRES
Anabel Torres
664D701E4DF44DC...

Clerk of the Board

SHON SMITH, COMMISSIONER

Appendix A – Letters of Support



CHELAN BASIN CONSERVANCY

P.O. Box 1073, Chelan, WA 98816
www.chelanbasinconservancy.org
(a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization)

November 20, 2023

Ms. Robin Graber
Water Resources and Planning Office
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center (86-63000)

RE: Lake Chelan Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grant Application Support

Dear Ms. Graber:

The Chelan Basin Conservancy (CBC) submits this letter of support for the Lake Chelan Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) WaterSMART Program.

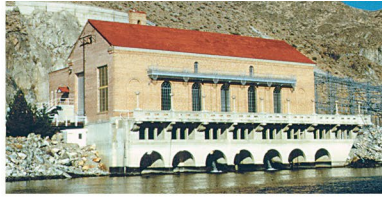
The protection and restoration of Lake Chelan is a core tenet of CBC's mission, which is supported by our board of directors and members. Lake Chelan is a unique waterbody, stretching over 50 miles from the City of Chelan to the village of Stehekin in the North Cascades National Park. The lake and its tributaries provide drinking water and irrigation supply to local communities, a significant tree fruit industry, and private residences. Lake Chelan is also well-known as a popular tourist destination with over two million visitors annually enjoying outdoor recreational opportunities, a growing wine industry, and local tourist-based industries.

A number of planning efforts over the years have been undertaken in Lake Chelan to address various water quality, water supply, and fish and wildlife issues; however, it has been over ten (10) years since the last significant planning effort. It is now time to update and integrate the various planning efforts into a new watershed restoration plan that considers new and emerging concerns and initiatives. We hope to build off the efforts of the existing Lake Chelan watershed planning effort, evaluate and update the current membership, and develop an updated watershed restoration plan.

We hope that BOR will provide support for the Lake Chelan CWMP application.

Sincerely,

Brian Patterson, Ph.D.
President - Chelan Basin Conservancy



PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 of CHELAN COUNTY

P.O. Box 1231, Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231 • 203 Olds Station Rd., Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 663-8121 • Toll free 1-888-663-8121 • www.chelanpud.org

December 1, 2023

Ms. Robin Graber
Water Resources and Planning Office
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center (86-63000)

RE: Lake Chelan Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grant Application Support

Dear Ms. Graber:

The Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (CPUD) submits this letter of support for the Lake Chelan Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) WaterSMART Program.

A number of planning efforts over the years have been undertaken in Lake Chelan to address various water quality, water supply and fish and wildlife issues; however, it has been over ten (10) years since the last significant planning effort. CPUD recognizes the importance of integrating the breadth of these various planning efforts and supports the efforts towards an updated watershed restoration plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alene Underwood". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Alene Underwood, Director
Natural Resources
Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County



Ms. Robin Graber
Water Resources and Planning Office
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center (86-63000)

December 1, 2023

RE: *Lake Chelan Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grant Application Support*

Dear Ms. Graber:

The Lake Chelan Research Institute submits this letter of support for the grant application of the Lake Chelan Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) WaterSMART Program. As a national treasure, protection and restoration of Lake Chelan is a paramount concern to the local community, land managers, external stakeholders, and the broader population of the Pacific Northwest. Lake Chelan is a unique waterbody, stretching over 50 miles from the City of Chelan to the village of Stehekin in the North Cascades National Park. The lake and its tributaries provide drinking water and irrigation supply to local communities, a significant tree fruit industry, and private residences. Lake Chelan is also well-known as a popular tourist destination with over two million visitors annually enjoying outdoor recreational opportunities, a growing wine industry and local tourist-based industries.

Several planning efforts over the years have been undertaken regarding Lake Chelan to address various water quality, water supply and fish and wildlife issues; however, it has been over ten (10) years since the last significant planning effort. It is now time to update and integrate the various planning efforts into a new watershed restoration plan that considers new and emerging concerns and initiatives. We will build on efforts of the existing Lake Chelan watershed planning effort, evaluate and update the current membership and develop an updated watershed restoration plan.

We urge the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to provide support for the Lake Chelan CWMP application. Please contact me if you would like more information regarding support for this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip E. Long".

Philip E. Long, PhD
Executive Director
Lake Chelan Research Institute

phillong@nwi.net

509.531.2987

LakeChelanResearchInstitute.org

KeepChelanBlue.org



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REGION TWO

Mailing Address: 1550 Alder Street NW, Ephrata, WA 98823-9699 · 509 754-4624 · TDD 360 902-2207

Region Two Office Location: 1550 Alder Street NW, Ephrata, WA

December 1, 2023

Ms. Robin Graber
Water Resources and Planning Office
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center (86-63000)

Dear Ms. Graber,

On behalf of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), I submit this letter of support for the Lake Chelan Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) WaterSMART Program. WDFW's support for this application is based on our agency's mandate to preserve, protect, and perpetuate fish, wildlife, and their habitat (Regulatory Code of Washington (RCW) 77.04.012). We see this as an opportunity to benefit fish, wildlife, and their habitats, as well as recreational opportunities, consistent with our mission.

The protection and restoration of Lake Chelan is a paramount concern to WDFW. Lake Chelan is a unique waterbody, stretching over 50 miles from the City of Chelan to the village of Stehekin in the North Cascades National Park. The lake and its tributaries provide important habitat that supports numerous WDFW Priority Species. Lake Chelan is also well-known as a popular tourist destination with over two million visitors annually enjoying outdoor recreational opportunities, including recreational fishing that our agency supports through recreational harvest management as well as hatchery fish stocking programs.

A number of planning efforts over the years have been undertaken in Lake Chelan to address various water quality, water supply, and fish and wildlife issues; however, it has been over ten (10) years since the last significant planning effort. It is now time to update and integrate the various planning efforts into a new watershed restoration plan that considers new and emerging concerns and initiatives. WDFW will support Chelan County Department of Natural Resources as they build off the work of the existing Lake Chelan watershed planning effort, evaluate and update the current membership, and develop an updated watershed restoration plan.

We hope that BOR will provide support for the Chelan County Department of Natural Resources Lake Chelan CWMP application.

Sincerely,

Amanda Barg
Assistant Regional Habitat Program Manager, WDFW Region 2



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Okanogan -Wenatchee
National Forest
Chelan Ranger District

428 West Woodin Avenue
Chelan, WA 98816
(509) 682-4900

File Code: 1580

Date: November 29, 2023

Ms. Robin Graber
Water Resources and Planning Office
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center (86-63000)

RE: Lake Chelan Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grant Application Support

Dear Ms. Graber:

The Chelan Ranger District submits this letter of support for the Lake Chelan Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) WaterSMART Program.

Lake Chelan is an iconic resource in the Pacific Northwest and deserving of protection and restoration to ensure a long-term supply of clean water to local communities. Lake Chelan provides a myriad of resources benefits to the local community including drinking and irrigation water and support to a significant tree fruit and wine grape industry. Additionally, the lake supports a growing tourist-based industry with millions of annual visitors in all seasons.

The Forest Service has supported and implemented several efforts to address water quality and fish and wildlife issues including erosion control treatments on thousands of feet of shoreline, fish barrier removal on tributary streams, and boat transport of water quality monitoring personnel. Other agencies and NGOs continue to plan, support, and implement efforts to enhance water quality in Lake Chelan.

The Forest Service supports updating and integrating the various planning efforts into a new watershed restoration plan that considers new and emerging concerns and initiatives. This should result in a more comprehensive and dynamic plan to protect the water resources on Lake Chelan.

Please consider supporting the Lake Chelan CWMP application.

Sincerely,

PAUL WILLARD
District Ranger





City of Chelan

135 E Johnson Ave.
P.O. Box 1669
Chelan, Washington, 98816

(509) 682-4037
Fax (509) 682-8009

December 4, 2023

Ms. Robin Graber
Water Resources and Planning Office
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center (86-63000)

RE: Lake Chelan Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grant Application Support

Dear Ms. Graber:

The City of Chelan, WA submits this letter of support for the Lake Chelan Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) WaterSMART Program.

Protection and restoration of Lake Chelan is a paramount concern to the local community, land managers, and external stakeholders. Lake Chelan is a unique waterbody, stretching over 50 miles from the City of Chelan to the village of Stehekin in the North Cascades National Park. The lake and its tributaries provide drinking water and irrigation supply to local communities, a significant tree fruit industry, and private residences. Lake Chelan is also well-known as a popular tourist destination with over two million visitors annually enjoying outdoor recreational opportunities, growing wine industry and local tourist-based industries.

A number of planning efforts over the years have been undertaken in Lake Chelan to address various water quality, water supply and fish and wildlife issues; however, it has been over ten (10) years since the last significant planning effort. It is now time to update and integrate the various planning efforts into a new watershed restoration plan that considers new and emerging concerns and initiatives. We hope to build off the efforts of the existing Lake Chelan watershed planning effort, evaluate and update the current membership and develop an updated watershed restoration plan.

We hope that BOR will provide support for the Lake Chelan CWMP application.

Sincerely,

Robert Goedde, Mayor

Rodney L. Anderson
Secretary-Manager

PHONE 509-687-3548

Lake Chelan Reclamation District

POST OFFICE BOX J
MANSON, WASHINGTON 98831

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Dave Clark, *President*
Carl Peterson, *Vice President*
Todd Jeffries
Chad Steiner
Alan Torgesen

November 20, 2023

Ms. Robin Graber
Water Resources and Planning Office
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center (86-63000)

RE: Lake Chelan Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grant Application Support

Dear Ms. Graber:

Lake Chelan Reclamation District submits this letter of support for the Lake Chelan Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) WaterSMART Program.

Protection and restoration of Lake Chelan is a paramount concern to the local community, land managers, external stakeholders, and our own District. Lake Chelan is a unique waterbody, stretching over 50 miles from the City of Chelan to the village of Stehekin in the North Cascades National Park. The lake and its tributaries provide drinking water and irrigation supply to local communities, a significant tree fruit industry, and private residences. Lake Chelan is also well-known as a popular tourist destination with over two million visitors annually enjoying outdoor recreational opportunities, growing wine industry and local tourist-based industries.

A number of planning efforts over the years have been undertaken in Lake Chelan to address various water quality, water supply and fish and wildlife issues; however, it has been over ten (10) years since the last significant planning effort. It is now time to update and integrate the various planning efforts into a new watershed restoration plan that considers new and emerging concerns and initiatives. We hope to build off the efforts of the existing Lake Chelan watershed planning effort, evaluate and update the current membership and develop an updated watershed restoration plan.

We hope that BOR will provide support for the Lake Chelan CWMP application.

Sincerely,



Rodney L. Anderson
Secretary-Manager
Lake Chelan Reclamation District
509-687-3548
randerson@lcrd.org