



PUGET SOUND ENERGY
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BAKER RESERVOIR RECREATION WATER SAFETY PLAN

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ARTICLE 304

BAKER RIVER PROJECT, FERC No. 2150-033



Puget Sound Energy
Bellevue, Washington

September 2009



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BRRWSP	Baker Reservoir Recreation Water Safety Plan
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
License	FERC Order Issuing License
NFS	National Forest System
Parties	Signatory participants to the Baker River Project Comprehensive Settlement Agreement
PSE	Puget Sound Energy
Project	Baker River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2150)
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
RRG	Recreation Resource Group
SA	Settlement Article
Settlement Agreement	Baker River Hydroelectric Project Relicensing Comprehensive Settlement Agreement
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USDA-FS	USDA Forest Service



1.0 Executive Summary

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has developed a plan to manage recreation water safety on Baker Reservoir during the term of the new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the Baker River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2150). The Baker Reservoir Recreation Water Safety Plan (BRRWSP) was developed in consultation with the Recreation Resource Group (RRG) and specifically the USDA Forest Service (USDA-FS) pursuant to Settlement Agreement Article 304, “Baker Reservoir Recreation Water Safety Plan” (SA 304) as described in the new FERC License. The BRRWSP documents PSE’s commitments in the Baker River Hydroelectric Project Number 2150 Relicensing Comprehensive Settlement Agreement (Settlement Agreement), effective November 30, 2004. The BRRWSP specifies water safety-related actions and management responsibilities at Baker Reservoir, including the transfer of funds to the USDA-FS for the construction and implementation of bulletin boards, the development of displays and tear-sheet maps of Baker Reservoir (including water safety considerations) at several locations, and the delineation of designated swimming areas at Horseshoe Cove Campground and Baker Lake Resort to separate boating and swimming uses. The BRRWSP also describes ongoing and periodic review and maintenance of water safety-related facilities (e.g., displays, floating booms, buoys, etc.) at Baker Reservoir during the term of the FERC License. Reporting related to implementation of the BRRWSP is described separately pursuant to SA 301 Recreation Management Report (SA 301).

2.0 Introduction

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) operates the Baker River Hydroelectric Project (Project, FERC Project No. 2150) under a license granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on October 17, 2008. The Baker Reservoir Recreation Water Safety Plan (BRRWSP) was prepared to comply with Settlement Agreement Article 304 Baker Reservoir Recreation Water Safety Plan (SA 304) of the new FERC Order Issuing License (License). It was prepared in consultation with the Recreation Resource Group (RRG), which includes the licensee (PSE) and other signatory participants (Parties) of the Baker River Hydroelectric Project Relicensing Comprehensive Settlement Agreement (Settlement Agreement), effective November 30, 2004.

The BRRWSP guides water safety-related implementation and management actions at Baker Reservoir during the term of the FERC License. As described in more detail in Section 7.0 (*Plan Implementation*), the BRRWSP specifically identifies implementation actions regarding PSE funding of USDA Forest Service (USDA-FS) bulletin boards, development of water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps of Baker Reservoir, and the delineation of designated swimming areas at Horseshoe Cove Campground and Baker Lake Resort to separate swimming and boating uses. The BRRWSP also describes PSE’s roles and responsibilities related to monitoring and reporting on the implementation status of the plan (Section 8.0 [*Monitoring and Reporting*]).

PSE distributed the Draft BRRWSP to the RRG for formal review (30 day review period per SA 304 requirements). RRG comments received during this review period are provided in Section 9.0. Any RRG comments that necessitated revisions to the plan are reflected in this Final Draft BRRWSP. The BRRWSP was also discussed at periodic RRG meetings and reviewed informally by the RRG. Minutes from these meetings and informal comments are included in Appendix A. The BRRWSP will become final upon FERC review and acceptance.

2.1 Provisions for Development and Modification of the BRRWSP

As required by SA 304, the licensee develops and prepares the BRRWSP in consultation with the RRG and specifically the USDA-FS. Potential future modifications to the BRRWSP will only be made by the licensee in collaboration with the RRG and with the approval of FERC. Any member of the RRG may propose a modification to the BRRWSP per the License Implementation and Decision-Making process, described in SA 601. If the RRG adopts a plan modification, PSE will be responsible for filing the modified plan with FERC for formal review and approval. The plan will continue to be implemented without the proposed modification until the modified plan is formally approved by FERC.

2.2 Ownership of Land and Facilities for SA 304

The BRRWSP applies specifically to those lands and facilities identified in Section 6.1 (*Plan Area*). Lands and facilities within the Plan Area include PSE, National Forest System (NFS) land, and other non-federal lands.

2.3 Inclusion Within the Project Boundary

The BRRWSP applies to lands within the Project, including action areas defined in Section 6.1. The Project is located within Skagit and Whatcom counties. The majority of the Upper Baker Development is within the USDA-FS's Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The Lower Baker Development occupies lands primarily owned by PSE, but about five percent of the area consists of lands managed by the USDA-FS and a mix of state and private ownership.

2.4 Funding SA 304

PSE will provide funding for BRRWSP implementation actions and measures throughout the term of the FERC License, per the funding guidelines provided in SA 304 and License Order Appendix A-5. Potential changes in the agreed-upon funding levels (per the Settlement Agreement) will be addressed according to the funding guidelines provided in SA 602. PSE will provide an annual summary of BRRWSP-related expenditures made during the preceding year in conformance with the requirements of the License, including SA 301 Recreation Management Report. The funding process is described in further detail in Section 6.3 (*Procedures*).

3.0 Basis for the Plan

On November 30, 2004, PSE filed a Settlement Agreement that resolved all issues among the parties related to the relicensing and ongoing operations of the Baker River Project FERC No.2150. Article 304 of the Settlement Agreement (SA 304) specified the requirements and expectations of the Baker Reservoir Recreation Water Safety Plan. In their October 17, 2008 Order Issuing License, at Paragraph F, the FERC incorporated the Settlement Agreement verbatim, including SA 304, into the license as Appendix A (FERC 2008).

3.1 Settlement Agreement Article 304 – Baker Reservoir Recreation Water Safety Plan

Within one year of license issuance, or on an alternative schedule to be submitted to the Commission for approval, the licensee shall file Baker Reservoir Recreation Water Safety Plan (BRRWSP) with the Commission for approval.

If licensee needs to submit an alternative schedule to the Commission, licensee shall prepare the schedule in consultation with the RRG. Licensee shall provide a copy of the proposed alternative schedule to the RRG at least 30 days prior to submitting the alternative schedule to the Commission, and shall forward any comments on the alternative schedule to the Commission along with the proposed alternative schedule. Upon approval, the alternative schedule becomes a requirement under the license, and the licensee shall implement the alternative schedule, including any changes required by the Commission.

The licensee shall develop the BRRWSP in consultation with the RRG. Within six months following license issuance, the licensee shall submit a draft of the BRRWSP to the RRG for review and comment. The licensee shall include, with the BRRWSP filed with the Commission, an implementation schedule, documentation of consultation, copies of consulting entity comments and recommendations on the completed plan and schedule, after they have been prepared and provided to consulting entities, and specific descriptions of how the entities' comments are accommodated by the plan and schedule. The licensee shall allow a minimum of 30 days for entities to comment and to make recommendations before filing the plan revision and schedule with the Commission. If the licensee does not adopt a recommendation, the filing shall include the licensee's reasons, based on Project-specific information.

The BRRWSP shall require the licensee to:

- 1) Within one year of license issuance, make funds available to the USDA-FS for the purpose of constructing and installing eight to twelve (8-12) bulletin boards at locations listed in the Recreation Water Safety Plan, in accordance with the Recreation Implementation Schedule attached as Appendix A-5.
- 2) Within two years of license issuance, prepare, in consultation with the RRG, information about the Baker Lake area including reservoir safety and provide displays and tear-sheet maps for visitors at the following specific sites: the USDA-FS/National Park Service office in Sedro-Woolley, all developed lake shore campgrounds at Baker Lake, the West Pass Dike public boat launch, PSE's Concrete Visitor Information Center if the facility is being operated, and two to four selected boat-in access points. Licensee shall review the maps and displays every sixth year of the license term and revise them to include any

additional boat launches, developed sites, or other recreation facilities and pertinent information.

- 3) Within three years of license issuance, construct floating log booms, buoys, or functionally equivalent structures to separate existing designated swimming areas from boat traffic at Horseshoe Cove and Baker Lake Resort. If there are remaining funds available during the construction of any new designated swimming areas, or if selected as a proper use of RAM funds, in accordance with SA 602, similar floating log booms, buoys, or functionally equivalent structures may be constructed to separate swimming areas from boat traffic. For the term of the license, licensee shall maintain such structures and provide adequate safety signage demarking swimming areas at Horseshoe Cove and Baker Lake Resort, and annually monitor reservoir hazards to recreation.

The licensee shall make funding available to the USDA-FS to contribute to its efforts in carrying out the purposes of this SA in an amount not to exceed that shown in the Recreation Implementation Schedule attached as Appendix A-5.

3.2 Relationship to Other Articles of the License and Settlement Agreement

SA 304 was incorporated into the License, along with the other proposed articles of the Settlement Agreement. In addition to incorporating the Settlement Articles, the License is subject to conditions submitted by:

- **SA 301 Recreation Management Report.** Under the conditions of SA 301, PSE will provide an annual report to the Parties per the schedule in SA 301 for 60 day review that includes a description of how PSE, agencies, and tribes coordinated the implementation of SA 304. Activities conducted during the previous 12 months (January 1-December 31) and the status of development or implementation of measures will be summarized in each annual report.

4.0 Goals

The goals and associated objectives of the BRRWSP include the following:

Goal 1 – Inform and educate visitors to Baker Reservoir about water safety while recreating on the reservoir.

- **Objective 1A** – Fund the USDA-FS to construct and install 8-12 bulletin boards with water safety-related information. This objective will be completed within 1 year of the License issuance date (October 1, 2008).
- **Objective 1B** – Develop up to 14 displays with tear-sheet maps that include water safety-related information. This goal will be completed within 2 years of the License issuance date.
- **Objective 1C** – Review and potentially update water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps every 6 years.

Goal 2 – Separate swimming and boat traffic on the reservoir to enhance and increase visitor safety.

- **Objective 2A** – Delineate designated swimming areas at Horseshoe Cove Campground and Baker Lake Resort using floating booms, buoys/buoy lines, or other appropriate structures, as well as signage to separate swimming and boat traffic

on the reservoir. This goal will be completed within 3 years of the License issuance date.

- **Objective 2B** – Maintain and monitor these delineated swimming areas on an annual basis.

5.0 Regulatory Reference and Definitions

5.1 Federal Authority and Reference

At the federal level, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is responsible for water safety-related rules, regulations, and guidelines. The USCG boating-related regulations generally pertain to the manufacturing of watercraft and equipment, as well as the operation of watercraft. It also develops and disseminates information about safe boating, including specific initiatives related to personal flotation devices, watercraft safety, watercraft operation, and boating-under-the-influence prevention, among others. Overall, while the specific actions required by SA 304 are generally outside the type of activities under the USCG's purview, the USCG's safe boating information and messages may be considered for inclusion in the water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps required by SA 304.

In addition to the USCG, FERC also provides safety guidance related to boating and other recreation uses at licensed hydroelectric projects. Specifically, the FERC's *Safety Signage at Hydropower Projects* (FERC 2001) provides guidance related to the design and placement of safety signage at hydroelectric projects. Signage-related actions resulting from implementation of SA 304 will be consistent with the FERC's guidance.

5.2 Washington State Authority and Reference

In Washington, several state agencies provide guidance related to watercraft operations and safety including the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington Department of Ecology, among others. These state agencies primarily provide information about how to properly operate a watercraft and safe boating practices (e.g., boater education, invasive species information, proper refueling techniques, etc.). The Revised Code of Washington (RCW), the compilation of all current state laws, also addresses the regulation of recreational watercraft (e.g., insurance, licensing, etc.), boater education efforts, boat inspections, invasive species control, and other watercraft user-based rules and regulations. Similar to the USCG information, state agency boating messages and guidelines, as well as pertinent boating-related laws (as codified in the RCW), may be incorporated into the water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps required by SA 304. However, the state agencies generally do not provide specific rules or regulations for site managers regarding signage and/or delineated swim areas, key components of the BRRWSP.

5.3 Definitions

A list of key term, definitions, and acronyms is provided following the Table of Contents.

6.0 Plan Implementation

This section outlines specific implementation and management components of the BRRWSP, as defined in SA 304.

6.1 Plan Area

The Plan Area, as defined in SA 304, includes Baker Reservoir, as well as recreation sites and use areas along the reservoir shoreline. Recreation sites and use areas specifically identified in SA 304 and the Plan Area include the following:

- Shannon Creek Campground and Boat Launch
- Baker Lake Resort and Boat Launch
- Panorama Point Campground and Boat Launch
- Bayview Campground
- Kulshan Campground
- Maple Grove Campground
- Horseshoe Cove Campground and Boat Launch
- West Pass Dike Boat Launch

In addition to these recreation sites and use areas, water safety-related information and materials may also be provided at the USDA-FS/National Park Service office in Sedro-Woolley and PSE's visitor information center in Concrete. PSE may implement site-specific water safety-related actions at these two sites (which are not located along the Baker Reservoir shoreline), as well as other potential sites and use areas, per the siting process described in Section 6.3 (*Procedures*).

6.2 Background Information

A series of recreation-related relicensing studies were completed in 2003 and 2004. Pertinent information and resulting proposed recreation-related protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures from the recreation studies were included in PSE's License Application that was submitted to FERC in January 2005 (PSE 2005). In particular, the recreation studies and License Application indicated that reservoir pool levels and navigational hazards posed safety concerns to boaters and swimmers on Baker Reservoir. To mitigate these safety concerns, PSE proposed developing water safety-related billboards and tear-sheet maps (to be placed on USDA-FS constructed bulletin boards, as well as other locations), as well as delineating designated swimming areas during the new License term. The new water safety-related information would increase boater and swimmer awareness of possible hazards, hopefully reducing the potential for boating- and/or swimming-related accidents at Baker Reservoir. In addition, the delineated swimming areas (including the installation of buoys, log booms, and/or other similar structures) would provide enhanced swimmer safety by separating swim areas from boating areas.

6.3 Procedures

As described in SA 304, PSE will provide for water safety on Baker Reservoir during the new License term via two primary methods: (1) visitor information and communication, and (2) delineated swimming areas. Each of these methods is described below.

6.3.1 Visitor Water Safety-Related Information and Communication

It has been shown that visitor behavior can be positively influenced by providing general information and targeted messages at recreation sites and use areas. As such, the first element of PSE's water safety-related actions is visitor education and communication. Under this element and per SA 304, the USDA-FS will be responsible for constructing 8 to 12 bulletin boards, while PSE will be responsible for developing water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps that will be placed on these new USDA-FS bulletin boards and other appropriate locations.

6.3.1.1 USDA-FS Bulletin Boards

Per License requirements and as described in SA 304, PSE will provide funding to the USDA-FS to construct and install 8 to 12 new bulletin boards. Upon receipt of funding from PSE, the USDA-FS will be responsible for constructing and installing the bulletin boards. PSE funding for the bulletin boards will be consistent with the funding caps established in the Settlement Agreement (License Appendix A-5). Funding and other article implementation actions will be summarized in PSE's annual Recreation Management Report (as required by SA 301). While other appropriate visitor information and educational materials may be posted on the USDA-FS bulletin boards, dedicated space will be reserved for water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps (that will be produced by PSE).

Since bulletin boards are semi-permanent, constructed facilities, it is not anticipated that their location will change on an annual basis. However, if a new bulletin board is needed in a new location and/or if an existing bulletin board needs to be moved to a different location, PSE and the USDA-FS will address this change on an as-needed basis during the new License term. Additionally, once constructed and installed, routine maintenance of the bulletin boards will be the responsibility of the site manager (PSE at PSE-managed recreation sites and use areas, and USDA-FS at USDA-FS-managed recreation sites and use areas). Bulletin board replacement will be assessed periodically throughout the License term and according to the spending caps identified in License Appendix A-5.

6.3.1.2 PSE Displays and Tear-Sheet Maps

Within 2 years of License issuance, PSE is responsible for developing appropriate water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps. The water safety displays and tear-sheet maps will be installed on the USDA-FS bulletin boards, as well as other locations identified in SA 304 including the USDA-FS/National Park Service office in Sedro-Woolley and PSE's visitor information center in Concrete.

The intent of the water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps is to communicate boating opportunities and appropriate boating-related behaviors to visitors at Baker Reservoir. Potential water safety-related topics that will be communicated on the displays and maps include the following:

- Boat launch and other recreation site locations at Baker Reservoir
- No wake zones and no boating areas on Baker Reservoir
- Project-specific boating rules and regulations
- USCG, FERC, and state rules, regulations, and safe boating guidelines
- Resource protection measures
- General information on navigation hazards and reservoir pool level
- Emergency contact information

The specific design and content of the water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps will be determined via the following process:

1. **Develop preliminary draft design concept.** PSE will develop a preliminary draft design concept for both the water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps. The preliminary draft design concept will include messages, graphics, and other appropriate sign elements, as well as design guidelines (e.g., size, colors, fonts, materials, etc.).
2. **RRG review of preliminary draft design concept.** PSE will work collaboratively with the RRG throughout the display and tear-sheet maps design and development process. The RRG will have the opportunity to review and provide input on the preliminary draft concept.
3. **Develop draft displays and tear-sheet maps.** Based on RRG review and input, PSE will develop draft displays and tear-sheet maps. The draft will include complete layouts (location of graphics, text, etc.) of both the displays and tear-sheet maps. The draft displays and tear-sheet maps will also include fabrication information.
4. **RRG review of draft displays and tear-sheet maps.** The RRG will review the draft water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps and provide comments and suggested revisions to PSE.
5. **Develop final displays and tear sheet maps.** Upon RRG review and comment, PSE will finalize the water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps.
6. **Fabricate displays and tear-sheet maps and install at identified locations.** Once the design and layout have been finalized, PSE will fabricate the displays and tear-sheet maps. PSE will then install the displays and tear-sheet maps at the locations identified in SA 304, including USDA-FS sites with BRRWSP-related bulletin boards.

More specific detail on the design and fabrication of the water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps will be developed in a future implementation plan. In the future, PSE may review and revise the water safety-related displays every 6 years (per SA 304) or as needed based on changes to safe boating regulations and guidelines. PSE may develop new versions of the tear-sheet maps on a more frequent basis (e.g., every 2 to 3 years), if necessary, since the maps will likely be easier to revise and update compared to the displays (i.e., paper maps are more easily revised compared to displays that may be constructed of more permanent materials). If changes to the displays and/or the tear-sheet maps are needed, PSE will coordinate the revised displays and tear-sheet maps with the RRG.

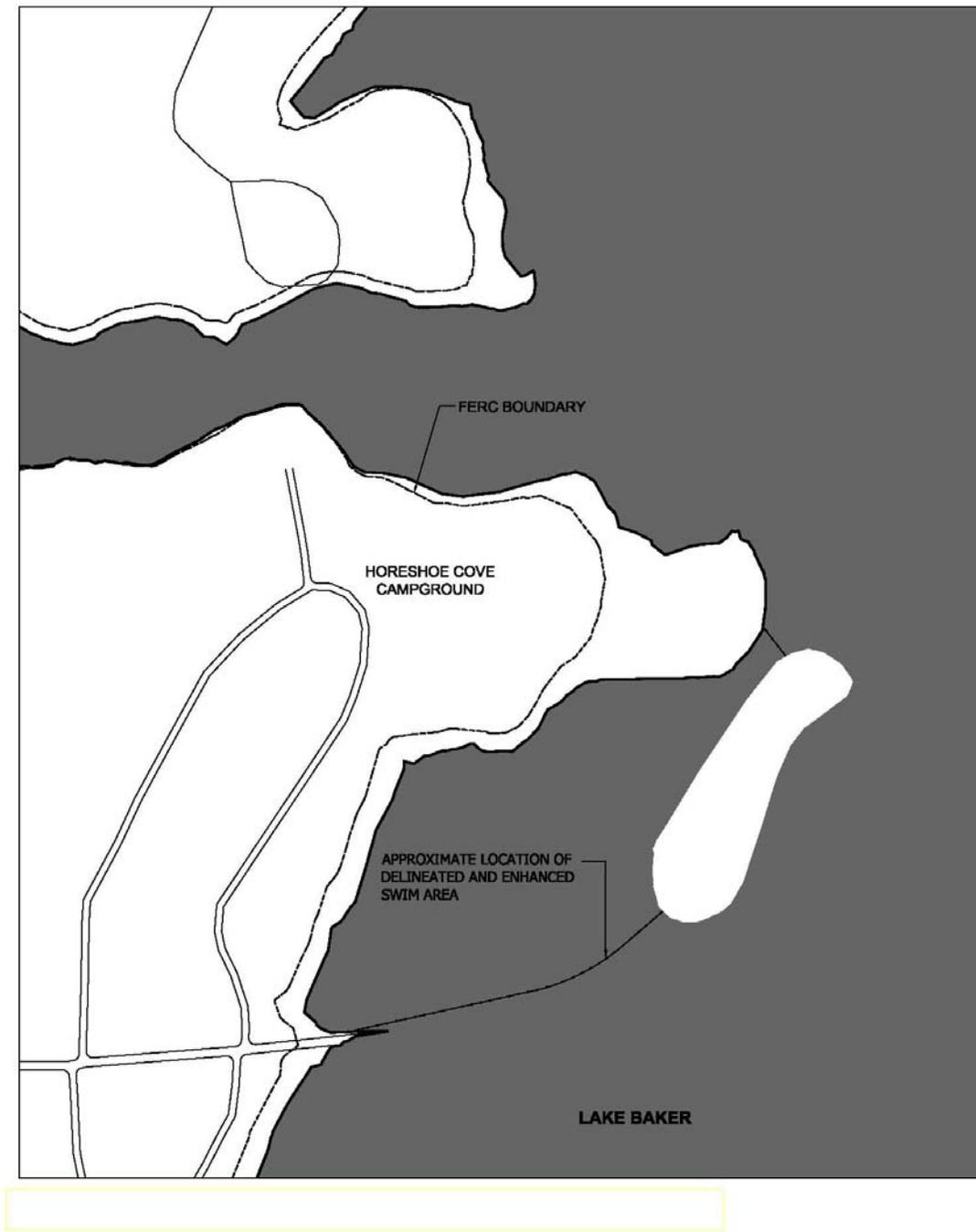
Once constructed and installed, routine maintenance of the displays and tear-sheet maps will be the responsibility of the site manager; however, PSE will be responsible for replacing displays and tear-sheet maps, as needed based on periodic assessments. Potential replacement displays and tear-sheet maps will generally be funded according to the spending caps and schedule identified in License Appendix A-5.

6.3.2 Separation of Boating and Swimming Uses

The second element of PSE's water safety-related actions is to provide safe swimming opportunities at Baker Reservoir by providing two delineated, designated swimming areas. These two delineated swimming areas will separate boating and swimming, thereby helping to minimize potential conflicts and safety issues potentially resulting from boaters and swimmers using the same area. Per SA 304 requirements, PSE will be responsible for providing delineated swimming areas at the Horseshoe Cove Campground and Baker Lake Resort. PSE may use floating log booms, buoy lines, or other functionally equivalent structures to separate existing designated swimming areas from boat traffic at these sites. PSE will also post appropriate safety signage demarking swimming areas.

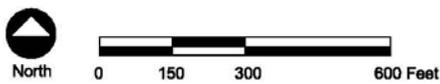
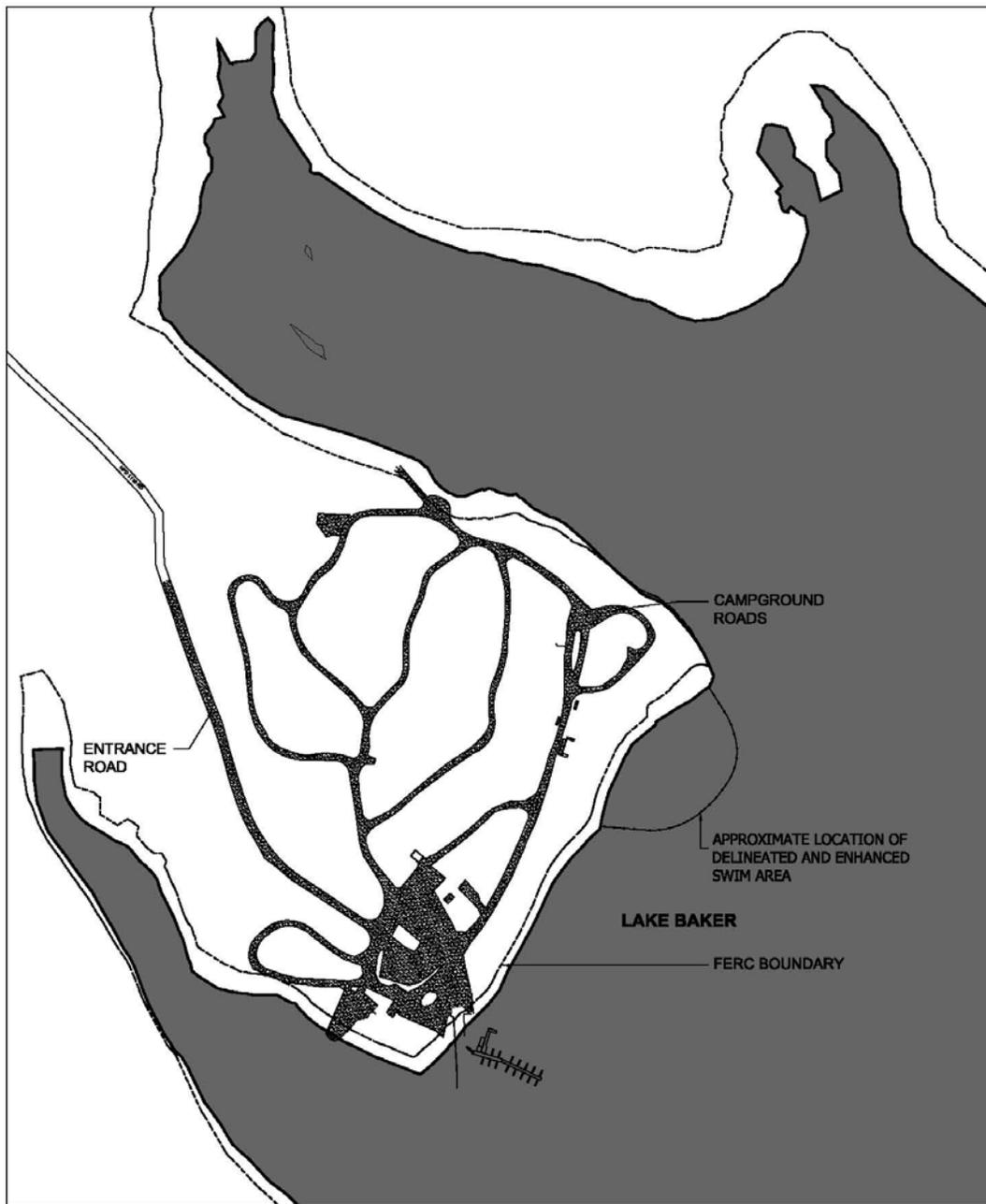
During the term of the new License, PSE will be responsible for installing and maintaining the delineated swimming areas at Horseshoe Cove Campground and Baker Lake Resort. In the future, if new swimming areas are designated at Baker Reservoir, PSE may consider similar delineation actions at these new sites, pending funding and input from the RRG.

Figures 1 and 2 show the approximate locations of the delineated swimming areas at the Horseshoe Cove Campground and Baker Lake Resort, respectively. Additional detail regarding the specific area to be delineated, structures (e.g., floating log booms, buoy lines, etc.) to be used, and installation and maintenance considerations will be described in a future implementation plan.



EDAW | AECOM
July 27, 2009

Figure 1. Horseshoe Cove Campground delineated swimming area.



EDAW | AECOM
July 27, 2009

Figure 2. Baker Lake Resort delineated swimming area.

6.4 Schedule

Per Settlement Agreement requirements, PSE will provide funding to the USDA-FS for the bulletin boards within 1 year of License issuance (pending a formal request by the USDA-FS). The USDA-FS will then construct and install the bulletin boards by the end of the second year of the new license (October 2010). This general implementation schedule may be revised, as needed, to best meet PSE and USDA-FS needs. To help meet the intended schedule and assure successful implementation of this Settlement Agreement condition, PSE and the USDA-FS will meet periodically, agree to potential bulletin board locations, and convene to verify the construction and installation of the bulletin boards.

PSE will develop the water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps by the end of the second year of the new license (October 2010). PSE will then fabricate and install the displays and tear-sheet maps by the beginning of the 2011 recreation season (approximately late April to early May).

PSE will install the swimming area delineation structures within 3 years of the License issuance date (October 1, 2011). Since the License was granted in October 2008, PSE will likely install the structures by and/or during the 2011 recreation season, at the latest, to meet the License schedule.

6.5 Consistency with Other Plans

The BRRWSP is consistent with SA 105 (Downstream Fish Passage Implementation Plan), SA 201 (Programmatic Agreement, which requires the development of a Historic Properties Management Plan), SA 507 (Loon Floating Nest Platforms), and SA 109 (Large Woody Debris), as well as other elements of the License. The BRRWSP will be implemented consistent with the standards and requirements of all other plans prepared to comply with the License. If the requirements of the BRRWSP conflict with one or more other License-required plans, the RRG and other affected resource implementation group(s) will resolve the conflict.

7.0 Monitoring and Reporting

This section describes the monitoring and reporting requirements of the BRRWSP, as described in SA 304.

7.1 Monitoring

PSE will be responsible for monitoring water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps, as well as the delineated swimming areas at Horseshoe Cove Campground and Baker Lake Resort. As stated in Section 6.3.1 (*Visitor Water Safety-Related Information and Communication*), the displays and tear-sheet maps will be reviewed and potentially updated every 6 years. The delineated swimming areas will be monitored and maintained, as needed, on an annual basis.

In addition, PSE will also develop a reservoir hazard monitoring program that describes their annual monitor tasks related to identifying significant recreation-related hazards at Baker Reservoir. The intent of this monitoring is not to mark or sign every potential hazard; rather, it is intended to inform both PSE as well as visitors of potential water

safety concerns at Baker Reservoir. Additionally, PSE will not remove potential hazards unless they specifically prohibit the safe launch/retrieval of watercraft at the designated boat launches and/or create unsafe swimming conditions at the delineated swimming areas at Baker Reservoir. Updated hazard information may be periodically incorporated into the water safety information and communication actions, at PSE's discretion (Section 6.3.1).

7.2 Reporting

BRRWSP-related reporting will be included in the annual Recreation Management Report (as required by SA 301). The Recreation Management Report will include a summary of License implementation actions and measures, funding and expenditures, and potential revisions to the implementation schedule, among other components. PSE is required to allow the RRG and USDA-FS at least 60 days to comment on a draft version of the Recreation Management Report before filing it with FERC.

8.0 References

- FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). 2001. Safety Signage at Hydropower Projects. Washington, D.C. October 2001.
- FERC. 2008. Puget Sound Energy, Inc. Project No. P-2150-033, 07: Order on Offer of Settlement, Issuing New License, and Dismissing Amendment Application as Moot. Washington, D.C. October 17, 2008.
- PSE (Puget Sound Energy). 2005. Baker River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2150): Application for a New License (Major Project – Existing Dam). Bellevue, WA. Submitted to FERC in January 2005.

9.0 RRG Review Comments and Responses

PSE distributed the Draft BRRWSP for formal RRG review on August 14, 2009. This section includes a record of RRG comments received during the formal 30-day review period, as well as PSE responses to these comments.

9.1 Distribution List

Table 1 lists the stakeholders who received copies of the Draft BRRWSP for formal review.

Table 1. Baker Reservoir Recreation Water Safety Plan reviewers.

Name	Organization	Address
Paula Mann	Town of Concrete	PO Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237
Brock Applegate	WA Dept Fish & Wildlife	PO Box 1100, La Conner, WA 98257-9612
Norma Joseph	Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe	5318 Chief Brown Ln, Darrington, WA 98241
Stan Walsh	Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe/Swinomish Indian Tribe	Po Box 368, LaConner, WA 98257
Brian Adams	Skagit County Parks & Recreation	315 S 3 rd St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Name	Organization	Address
Patrick Goldsworthy	North Cascades Conservation Council	PO Box 95980, Seattle, WA 98145-2980
Jim Eychaner	RCO	1111 WA Dept Natural Resources Building, Olympia, WA 98501
JoAnne Gustafson	Dept of Natural Resources	919 N Township, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
Lou Ellyn Jones	US Fish & Wildlife Services	510 Desmond Dr, Lacey, WA 98503
Scott Schuyler	Upper Skagit Indian Tribe	25944 Community Plaza, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
Greta Movassaghi	USDA-FS	810 SR 20, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
Ann Dunphy	USDA-FS	810 SR 20, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

9.2 Cover Letter

This section includes a copy of the cover letter that PSE included with the Draft BRRWSP that was mailed to the stakeholders listed in Section 9.1 for review.

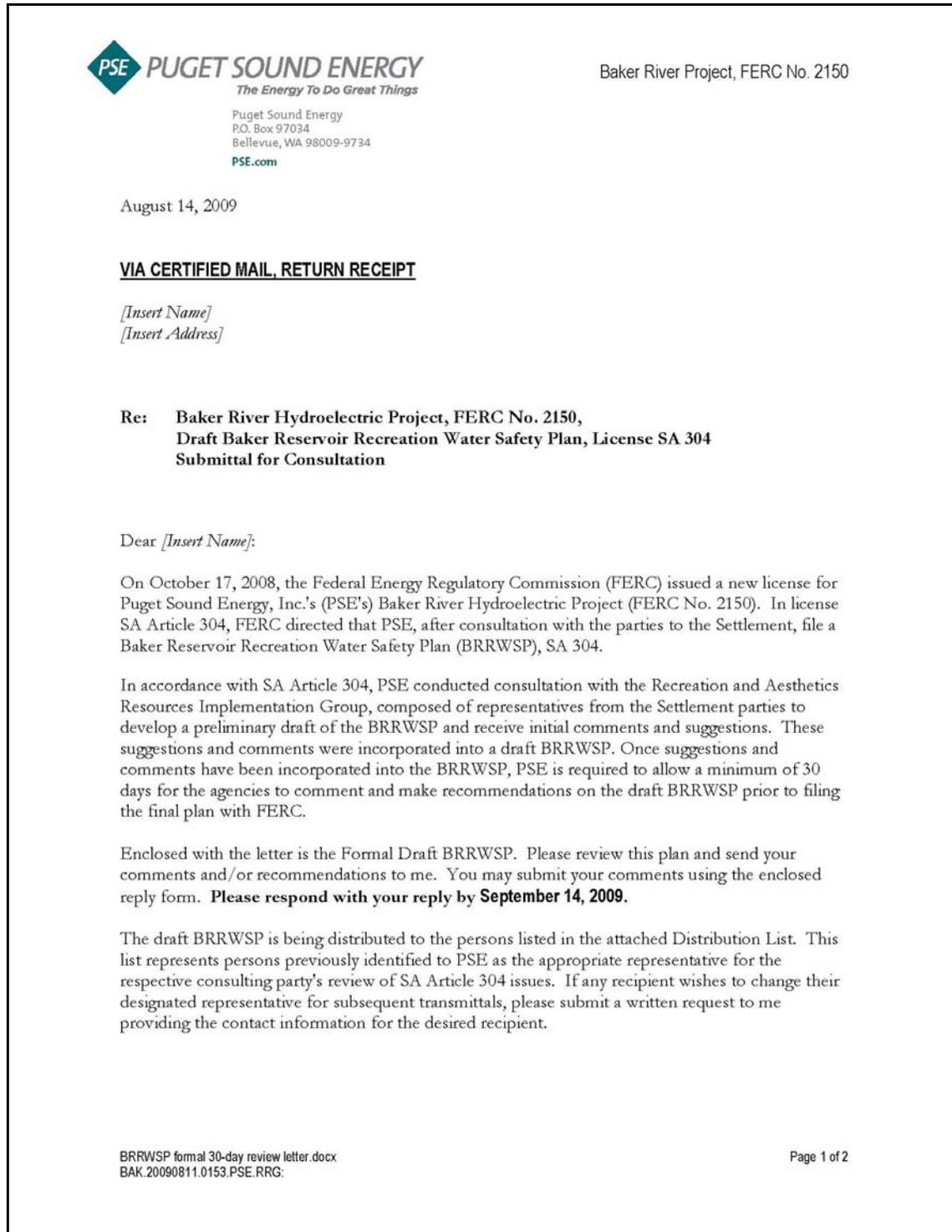


Figure 3. Sample cover letter from PSE.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting this process. If you have any questions, please call me at 360-424-2912 or e-mail me at pamela.garland@pse.com.

Sincerely,

Pam Garland
Recreation Supervisor

Enclosures

cc: Ann Dunphy and Greta Movassaghi, USDA-FS; Scott Schuyler, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe; Norma Joseph and Stan Walsh, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribal Community; Stan Walsh, Swinomish Tribal Community; Brock Applegate, WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife; Patrick Goldsworthy, North Cascades Conservation Council; Paula Mann, Town of Concrete; Brian Adams, Skagit County Parks & Recreation; Jim Eychaner, RCO; JoAnn Gustafson, WA Dept of Natural Resources; LouEllyn Jones, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Kim Lane, Cary Feldmann and Hillary Sibley, PSE.

BRRWSP formal 30-day review letter.docx
BAK.20090811.0153.PSE.RRG:

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Figure 3, continued.

9.3 Summary of Reviewer Replies

The following reviewers sent comments to PSE (see Section 9.4 for details).

- Patrick Goldsworthy, North Cascades Conservation Council
- Greta Movassaghi, USDA-FS

The following reviewers replied but had no comments.

- JoAnne Gustafson, Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Paula Mann, Town of Concrete
- Jim Eychaner, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

9.4 Reviewer Comments and PSE Responses

Table 2 summarizes RRG reviewer comments on the BRRWSP and PSE's responses to these comments.

Table 2. Comments following formal review of the Baker Reservoir Recreation Water Safety Plan, August 14 – September 14, 2009.

Comment	Puget Sound Energy Response
Patrick Goldsworthy, North Cascades Conservation Council, received August 20, 2009	
Several questions occurred to me: (1) Are sea planes allowed on Baker Lake, and if so, safety actions would be required? (2) Do safety hazards of water-skiing need to be considered? (3) How would potential shoreline erosion, from high speed boat wakes be controlled? (4) Are there boating safety hazards from submerged tree sites (sic Ross Lake)?	Questions noted. These water safety-related questions and others will be discussed and included in the water safety implementation plan that will be developed in the future (per the guidance and general management direction provided in the BRRWSP).
Greta Movassaghi, USDA-FS, received September 15, 2009	
Basically the following text should be stricken from the Plan and the text of bullet 4 re-formatted. 6.3.1 Visitor Water Safety-Related Information and Communication It has been shown that visitor behavior can be positively influenced by providing general information and targeted messages at recreation sites and use areas. As such, the first element of PSE's water safety-related actions is visitor education and communication. Under this element and per SA 304, the USDA-FS will be responsible for constructing 8 to 12 bulletin boards, while PSE will be responsible for developing water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps that will be placed on these new USDA-FS bulletin boards and other appropriate locations. <u>USDA-FS Bulletin Boards</u> Per License requirements and as described in SA 304, PSE will provide funding to the USDA-FS to construct and install 8 to 12 new bulletin boards. PSE funding for the bulletin boards will be consistent with the funding caps established in the Settlement Agreement (License Appendix A-5). Funding and other article implementation actions will be	Section 6.3.1 of the BRRWSP has been updated to reflect the USDA-FS's revisions/deletions: 6.3.1 Visitor Water Safety-Related Information and Communication It has been shown that visitor behavior can be positively influenced by providing general information and targeted messages at recreation sites and use areas. As such, the first element of PSE's water safety-related actions is visitor education and communication. Under this element and per SA 304, the USDA-FS will be responsible for constructing 8 to 12 bulletin boards, while PSE will be responsible for developing water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps that will be placed on these new USDA-FS bulletin boards and other appropriate locations. <u>USDA-FS Bulletin Boards</u> Per License requirements and as described in SA 304, PSE will provide funding to the USDA-FS to construct and install 8 to 12 new bulletin boards. Upon receipt of funding from PSE, the USDA-FS will be responsible for constructing and installing the bulletin boards. PSE funding for the bulletin boards will be consistent with the funding caps established

Comment	Puget Sound Energy Response
<p>summarized in PSE’s annual Recreation Management Report (as required by SA 301). While other appropriate visitor information and educational materials may be posted on the USDA-FS bulletin boards, dedicated space will be reserved for water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps (that will be produced by PSE).</p> <p>Funding and the location of the USDA-FS bulletin boards will be determined via the following process:</p> <p>1. — <i>USDA-FS Funding and Location Proposal</i> — The USDA-FS will submit a funding request to PSE for the construction and installation of 8 to 12 bulletin boards. The funding request will include a proposal for siting the bulletin boards. At a minimum, the proposal for siting should include those recreation sites and use areas specifically identified in SA 304.</p> <p>2. — <i>PSE Review of Funding and Location of Bulletin Boards</i> — PSE will review the USDA-FS’s funding request and proposed locations for bulletin boards. PSE may engage the RRG in the review of the proposed locations for the bulletin boards. Upon review and potential input from the RRG, PSE and the USDA-FS will agree to a final set of bulletin board locations.</p> <p>3. — <i>PSE Funding to USDA-FS</i> — Once PSE and the USDA-FS have established a finalized set of bulletin board locations, PSE will transfer appropriate funds to the USDA-FS for their construction and installation.</p> <p><i>Bulletin Board Construction and Installation</i> – Upon receipt of funding from PSE, the USDA-FS will be responsible for constructing and installing the bulletin boards at the agreed-upon locations.</p> <p>Since bulletin boards are semi-permanent, constructed facilities, it is not anticipated that their location will change on an annual basis. However, if a new bulletin board is needed in a new location and/or if an existing bulletin board needs to be moved to a different location, PSE and the USDA-FS will address this change on an as-needed basis during the new License term. Additionally, once constructed and installed, routine maintenance of the bulletin boards will be the responsibility of the site manager (PSE at PSE-managed recreation sites and use areas, and USDA-FS at USDA-FS-managed recreation sites and use areas). Bulletin board replacement will be assessed periodically throughout the License term and according to the spending caps identified in License Appendix A-5.</p>	<p>in the Settlement Agreement (License Appendix A-5). Funding and other article implementation actions will be summarized in PSE’s annual Recreation Management Report (as required by SA 301). While other appropriate visitor information and educational materials may be posted on the USDA-FS bulletin boards, dedicated space will be reserved for water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps (that will be produced by PSE).</p> <p>Since bulletin boards are semi-permanent, constructed facilities, it is not anticipated that their location will change on an annual basis. However, if a new bulletin board is needed in a new location and/or if an existing bulletin board needs to be moved to a different location, PSE and the USDA-FS will address this change on an as-needed basis during the new License term. Additionally, once constructed and installed, routine maintenance of the bulletin boards will be the responsibility of the site manager (PSE at PSE-managed recreation sites and use areas, and USDA-FS at USDA-FS-managed recreation sites and use areas). Bulletin board replacement will be assessed periodically throughout the License term and according to the spending caps identified in License Appendix A-5.</p>

9.5 Comment Correspondence

This section includes correspondence from those RRG reviewers who provided comments on the BRRWSP.

Baker Consultation Reply Form



PUGET SOUND ENERGY
The Energy To Do Great Things

REPLY FORM to Baker River Hydroelectric Project Draft BRRWSP Submittal for Consultation

Name: Patrick Goldsworthy

Job Title: Chairman

Representing: North Cascades Conservation Council

Address: 2514 Crestmont Pl W

City, State, Zip: Seattle, WA 98199

Instructions: Please select from the following options:

I have read the draft _____ Plan and I have no comments.

I have read the draft Baker Reservoir Recreation Water Safety(BRRWSP) Plan and I have comments, listed below. (Please use additional paper, if needed).

Several questions occurred to me: (1) Are sea planes allowed on Baker Lake, and if so, safety actions would be required ? (2) Do safety hazards of water-skiing need to be considered ? (3) How would potential shoreline erosion, from high speed boat wakes, be controlled ? (4) Are there boating safety hazards from submerged tree stumps (sic Ross Lake) ?

I have read the draft Baker Reservoir Recreation Water Safety Plan (BRRWSP) Plan and I will email my comments to pamela.garland@pse.com.

I do not wish to be involved in the consultation process.

Important:

Please send this reply via the self-addressed envelope and mail no later than September 14, 2009.

Date Reply Form Received by PSE: August 20, 09 pg

cc: PG, MB, TB
JD

Patrick D. Goldsworthy

N:\2009\FERC\Draft Rec Management Plans\BRRWSP\formal 30-day review packet\Patrick reply.doc
PC 07772-0242\LEGAL\14483052.1

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06/09

8/14/09 RRG PSE

Figure 4. Reply from Patrick Goldsworthy, North Cascades Conservation Council.

From: Greta Movassaghi [mailto:gmovassaghi@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2009 10:57 AM
To: Greta Movassaghi
Cc: Ann Dunphy; Jon Vanderheyden; Lane, Kim W; Garland, Pamela K; Rodney Mace; Walt Dortch
Subject: RE: USFS review of SA 304 Reservoir Water Safety Plan

Pam

Basically the following text should be stricken from the Plan and the text of bullet 4 re-formatted .

6.3.1 Visitor Water Safety-Related Information and Communication

It has been shown that visitor behavior can be positively influenced by providing general information and targeted messages at recreation sites and use areas. As such, the first element of PSE's water safety-related actions is visitor education and communication. Under this element and per SA 304, the USDA-FS will be responsible for constructing 8 to 12 bulletin boards, while PSE will be responsible for developing water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps that will be placed on these new USDA-FS bulletin boards and other appropriate locations.

USDA-FS Bulletin Boards

Per License requirements and as described in SA 304, PSE will provide funding to the USDA-FS to construct and install 8 to 12 new bulletin boards. PSE funding for the bulletin boards will be consistent with the funding caps established in the Settlement Agreement (License Appendix A-5). Funding and other article implementation actions will be summarized in PSE's annual Recreation Management Report (as required by SA 301). While other appropriate visitor information and educational materials may be posted on the USDA-FS bulletin boards, dedicated space will be reserved for water safety-related displays and tear-sheet maps (that will be produced by PSE).

~~Funding and the location of the USDA-FS bulletin boards will be determined via the following process:~~

~~1. *USDA-FS Funding and Location Proposal* – The USDA-FS will submit a funding request to PSE for the construction and installation of 8 to 12 bulletin boards. The funding request will include a proposal for siting the bulletin boards. At a minimum, the proposal for siting should include those recreation sites and use areas specifically identified in SA 304.~~

~~2. *PSE Review of Funding and Location of Bulletin Boards* – PSE will review the USDA-FS's funding request and proposed locations for bulletin boards. PSE may engage the RRG in the review of the proposed locations for the bulletin boards. Upon review and potential input from the RRG, PSE and the USDA-FS will agree to a final set of bulletin board locations.~~

Figure 5. E-mail reply from Greta Movassaghi, USDA-FS.

~~3. PSE Funding to USDA-FS – Once PSE and the USDA-FS have established a finalized set of bulletin board locations, PSE will transfer appropriate funds to the USDA-FS for their construction and installation.~~

Bulletin Board Construction and Installation – Upon receipt of funding from PSE, the USDA-FS will be responsible for constructing and installing the bulletin boards at the agreed-upon locations.

Since bulletin boards are semi-permanent, constructed facilities, it is not anticipated that their location will change on an annual basis. However, if a new bulletin board is needed in a new location and/or if an existing bulletin board needs to be moved to a different location, PSE and the USDA-FS will address this change on an as-needed basis during the new License term. Additionally, once constructed and installed, routine maintenance of the bulletin boards will be the responsibility of the site manager (PSE at PSE-managed recreation sites and use areas, and USDA-FS at USDA-FS-managed recreation sites and use areas). Bulletin board replacement will be assessed periodically throughout the License term and according to the spending caps identified in License Appendix A-5.

+++++

NOTE: new Work Cell # 360-631-4499

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Greta Movassaghi  
Natural Resource Specialist --  
Skagit Wild & Scenic River / Hydro  
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest  
810 SR 20  
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Figure 5, continued.