

**RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**WELLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**  
**FERC NO. 2149**

May 2010

Prepared by:  
Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Recreation Management Plan (RMP) describes Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County's (Douglas PUD) plans for operations and maintenance, design, and development of Wells Hydroelectric Project (Wells Project) recreation facilities within the Wells Project Boundary. The goal of the RMP is to provide recreational opportunity at the Wells Project throughout the term of the new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license in accordance with the relevant FERC requirements and the needs of the Project. The RMP provides guidance for addressing current recreational uses and opportunities at the Project and provides a process for identifying the need over time for any new measures to enhance the use and enjoyment of the recreational resources associated with the Wells Project.

Measures proposed within this plan are based on the recreational resources available at the Project as well as statewide and regional recreation use trends identified through studies conducted as part of the Wells Integrated Licensing Process (ILP). Proposed measures are defined within two programs: 1) the Recreation Facility Improvement Program; and 2) the Recreation Facility Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring Program.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The development of the Recreation Management Plan (RMP) is an important component of the relicensing of the Wells Hydroelectric Project (Wells Project). The RMP replaces the Recreation Action Planning Process used during the term of the original license. The RMP establishes a schedule for providing improvements to the current recreational facilities and a process for planning, developing and implementing any new recreational facilities and opportunities at the Project during the term of the new license.

Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County (Douglas PUD) developed this plan in consultation with the members of the Recreation Work Group (RWG). Members of the RWG include representatives from the cities of Pateros, Brewster and Bridgeport; Okanogan and Douglas counties; Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks); Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO); Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); the National Park Service (NPS); Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT); Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Douglas PUD.

This RMP provides a summary of studies conducted for relicensing (Section 2); identifies the goals and objectives for managing the recreation resources related to the Wells Project (Section 3); describes the existing Wells Project recreation facilities (Section 4); and defines appropriate measures for developing and protecting recreational opportunities at the Project (Section 5).

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

Douglas PUD conducted three studies during the relicensing process to identify and support future recreation needs at the Wells Project. A Recreation Visitor Use Assessment (DTA, 2006) was conducted in 2005 to identify recreation use and preferences related to the Wells Project. In 2007, a Recreational Needs Analysis (DTA, 2008) was conducted to identify current and potential future recreation needs in the Project area over the course of the new license term. In 2008, a Public Access Study (Jacobs Engineering, 2008) was conducted to identify areas of the reservoir that may be difficult to access due to reservoir operations, aquatic plant growth, or obstructions.

The primary goals of the Recreation Visitor Use Assessment (DTA 2006) were to describe use levels, preferences, attitudes, and characteristics of visitors to the Wells Project recreation sites. The study concluded that respondents were satisfied with facilities, with survey respondents rating their overall experience as 8.7 on a 10 point scale. The highest levels of crowding were reported at Marina Park recreational vehicle (RV) campground in Bridgeport, and the wildlife areas. The majority of respondents did not feel more controls were needed to prevent user conflicts, or to prevent environmental damage, and that enough educational/interpretive opportunities exist (DTA 2006).

The goal of the Recreation Needs Analysis (DTA 2008) study was to identify current and future recreation needs at the Wells Project. The study indicated that maintenance of facilities was good overall, with a future need to upgrade restroom and access sites to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Future recreational measures included adding additional

signage in Spanish, ADA related improvements, near-shore tent camping for water trail users, and providing education about the Wells Project (DTA 2008).

The goal of the Public Access Study (Jacobs Engineering 2008) was to evaluate whether Wells Project recreation facilities such as docks, boat launches and swimming areas, can be reasonably utilized under various reservoir operating scenarios and conditions. The study determined that 15 out of 17 formal access sites were accessible greater than 95% of the time. The only two sites that were accessible less than 95% of the time were the Winter Boat Launch in Pateros (91%) and the Monse Boat Launch on the Okanogan River (35%). In 2008, the Winter Boat Launch in Pateros was repaired and extended, and is now accessible over 98% of the time. Swimming areas were identified as most affected by aquatic plant growth.

### **3.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Purpose**

The purpose of the RMP is to describe Douglas PUD's role and responsibilities related to the management of the recreation resources of the Wells Project during the term of the new license. This RMP contains a comprehensive list of measures for the maintenance and development of Project-related recreation facilities during the term of the new license. The RMP also describes the process and procedures for managing recreation resources, and monitoring recreation use and trends over the term of the new license.

#### **3.2 Principles**

The following principles were used to guide the development of the RMP:

- Recreation at the Wells Project is an important resource that must be actively managed;
- Douglas PUD shall provide adequate access to Project lands and waters for recreational purposes in a manner that is consistent with responsibilities for protecting other resources at the Project;
- Management of the Wells Project requires a balancing of energy, environmental, and social values. Not all recreation demands can or should be accommodated by Douglas PUD;
- Recreation needs change over time; therefore, an “adaptive management” approach is appropriate;
- There is a desire to maintain and/or improve the experience now enjoyed by recreation users at the Wells Project;
- It is acknowledged that capital improvements to recreation facilities can be costly and require adequate time to design, permit and implement;

- Douglas PUD is responsible for the implementation of the RMP. The RMP does not include commitments by other agencies or organizations; and
- Other entities may propose and fund recreation site improvements and maintenance on Wells Project lands with Douglas PUD approval and the approval of other relevant regulatory authorities.

### **3.3 Goals and Objectives**

The goal of the RMP is to provide recreational opportunity at the Wells Project throughout the term of the new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license in accordance with the relevant FERC requirements and the needs of the Project. This includes providing for current recreational uses and opportunities within the Project Boundary and identifying the need for any new measures or facilities to enhance recreational opportunity at the Project over the term of the new license. This management plan provides a comprehensive list of measures to support recreation uses and opportunities at the Wells Project. This plan also serves as the roadmap for operating, maintaining, updating, and improving the existing recreation facilities and a process for meeting recreation needs as they change over time.

The goal of the RMP will be met through the implementation of two programs that encompass Douglas PUD’s overall approach to managing recreation resources for the term of the new license. The main elements of the RMP are as follows:

Program 1: Recreation Facility Improvement Program (Section 5.1)

This program defines Douglas PUD’s responsibilities for new Project recreation developments and improvements to existing facilities. Conceptual designs are included in Appendix A.

Program 2: Recreation Facility Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring Program (Section 5.2)

This program defines Douglas PUD’s responsibilities for ongoing O&M at Project recreation facilities. Guidelines are provided for each type of O&M activity. Douglas PUD’s recreation use monitoring program will inform future planning related to recreation management during the term of the new license.

The RMP will be integrated with other management strategies of Douglas PUD as well as management plans of federal, state and tribal natural resource management agencies.

### **4.0 EXISTING PROJECT RECREATION FACILITIES**

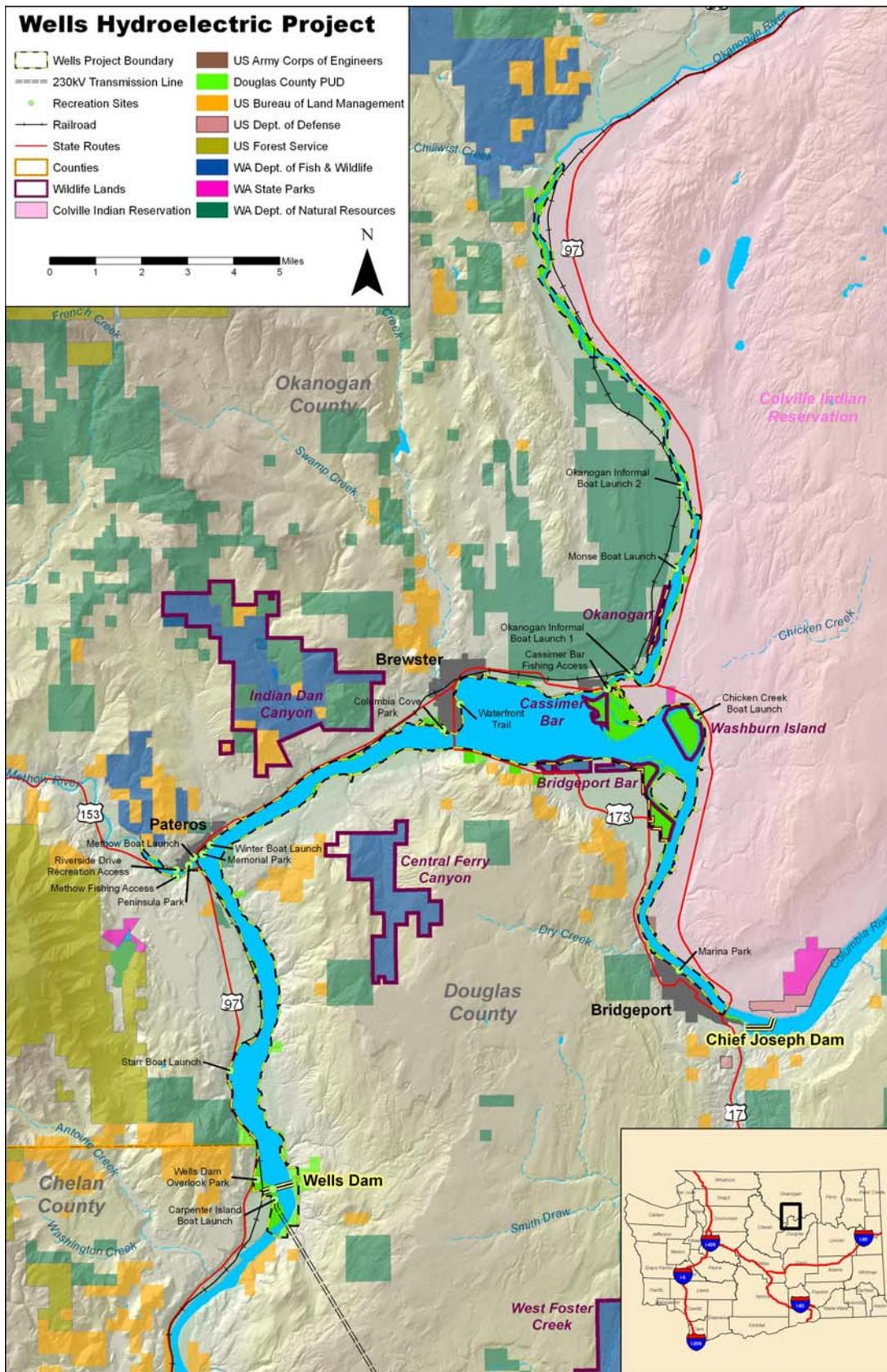
The Wells Project currently provides significant recreation opportunities for local residents and visitors. Local residents have numerous access points to the Wells Reservoir and associated Project lands. Access to the Wells Reservoir from the greater Seattle/Puget Sound area is most common via Interstate 90 over Snoqualmie Pass to US Highway 97. Highway 97 borders the Wells Reservoir on the west and extends into British Columbia. Other routes from western Washington include US Highway 2 over Stevens Pass and summer access via State Route 20

(also known as the North Cascades Highway). Visitors from eastern Washington typically visit the area via Highway 2 from Spokane. Canadian visitors access the area by heading south on Highway 97, which meets the Wells Reservoir near Malott, Washington.

Many people take advantage of the recreation opportunities provided at the Wells Project during the spring and summer for boating, fishing, bird watching, hiking and RV camping. Additionally, sportsmen visit the area during the fall season to fish for steelhead and to hunt waterfowl, upland birds and deer.

Douglas PUD's approach to developing and enhancing recreational access to and use of the lands and waters within the Project Boundary has been documented in its Wells Recreation Plan (1967), Wells Recreation Plan Supplement (1974), Public Use Plan (1982) and Recreation Action Plans (1987, 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2007). Douglas PUD has funded and developed 17 formal recreation facilities along the Wells Reservoir in Pateros, Brewster and Bridgeport and along the lower reaches of the Methow and Okanogan rivers.

Figure 4.0-1 is a map of recreation sites and use areas in the Wells Project. Descriptions of existing recreational sites and facilities within the Wells Project are provided below.



**Figure 4.0-1 Map of Recreation Sites in the Wells Project**

## **4.1 Recreation Facilities within the Cities of Pateros, Brewster and Bridgeport**

### **4.1.1 Facilities in Pateros, Washington**

Project recreation facilities located within the City of Pateros include Peninsula Park, Memorial Park, one Methow River recreation access site, two concrete boat launches, parking and restrooms.

#### **4.1.1.1 Peninsula Park**

Peninsula Park is located near the confluence of the Methow and Columbia rivers. It includes one gazebo, paved walking path, covered picnic shelter, swimming beach, restroom facilities, playground equipment, swimming lagoon, vehicle parking and lawn area.

#### **4.1.1.2 Memorial Park**

Memorial Park is located in Pateros along the Columbia River. It includes three covered picnic shelters, fishing and ski docks, vehicle parking, interpretive displays, playground equipment, concrete water access ramp, restroom facilities and a developed waterfront trail with park benches and lighting. The waterfront trail begins at the east end of Memorial Park near City Hall and meanders through the park, under the Highway 97 Bridge and terminates at the Methow Boat Launch.

#### **4.1.1.3 Pateros Winter Boat Launch**

The Pateros Winter Boat Launch is located in Pateros upstream of Memorial Park along the Columbia River. The site includes a concrete boat launch, dock and parking. This boat launch provides year-round access to the Wells Reservoir, including winter when the Methow Boat Launch may be unusable due to ice on the Methow River.

#### **4.1.1.4 Methow Boat Launch**

The Methow Boat Launch is located in Pateros between Peninsula Park and Memorial Park at the confluence of the Columbia and Methow rivers. The site includes a concrete boat launch and dock, parking, basketball hoops and restrooms. The boat launch area is connected to Memorial Park via an accessible walkway underneath Highway 97 and the railroad bridge.

#### **4.1.1.5 Riverside Drive Recreation Access**

The Riverside Drive Recreation Access is located along the left bank of the Methow River, upstream from Peninsula Park. The site includes a gradual landscaped access to the Methow River for fishing, kayaking, or canoeing.

#### **4.1.2 Facilities in Brewster, Washington**

Project recreation facilities located within the City of Brewster include Columbia Cove Park and a developed waterfront trail.

##### **4.1.2.1 Columbia Cove Park**

Columbia Cove Park includes a boat launch, boat docks, three covered picnic shelters, a swimming beach, restroom facilities, playground equipment, a lawn area, and vehicle parking.

##### **4.1.2.2 Brewster Waterfront Trail**

The waterfront trail in Brewster is located north of Columbia Cove Park and consists of a compacted stone surface that extends approximately ½ mile along the Brewster city waterfront. The City of Brewster developed the trail with the assistance of Douglas PUD and the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The trail is generally 6 to 8 feet above the water level and 20 feet or more below adjacent streets and residential areas. It is connected to city streets at either end by ramps and at three intermediate locations by stairs.

#### **4.1.3 Facilities in Bridgeport, Washington**

Project recreation facilities include Marina Park, which is located within the Wells Project Boundary in the City of Bridgeport. The City of Bridgeport operates an 18-site RV park within Marina Park.

##### **4.1.3.1 Marina Park**

Marina Park includes a fish cleaning station, covered picnic shelters, gazebo, playground equipment, swimming lagoon with beach, a lawn area, restrooms, vehicle parking, asphalt pathway, a boat launch, and an RV campground. The RV campground includes 18 full hookups and four tent sites.

#### **4.2 Recreation Sites Outside the Cities**

In addition to the facilities in Pateros, Brewster and Bridgeport, Douglas PUD has developed additional Project related recreation sites to provide access to all segments of the Wells Reservoir. These sites are described in the following sections.

##### **4.2.1 Wells Dam Overlook**

A viewing area overlooking Wells Dam from the west is located off of Highway 97. The Wells Dam Overlook includes vehicle and day-use RV parking, restrooms and a picnic shelter. Exhibits at the Overlook include Native American pictographs, a Wells Project information kiosk and an original Wells Project turbine runner. The Wells Dam Overlook is accessible 24-hours a day.

#### **4.2.2 Carpenter Island Boat Launch**

The Carpenter Island Boat Launch is a concrete plank boat launch located on the right bank of the Wells Tailrace immediately downstream of the Wells Project near RM 515.5. This boat launch is located within the Wells Project Boundary on land owned by Douglas PUD and is used primarily for fishing access. It includes a single launch lane and portable toilets. Access to this launch is provided via Azwell Road. As a recreation enhancement measure under the original Project license, Douglas PUD is currently relocating this boat launch to a more accessible location nearby. Relocating the launch is a separate action from relicensing and is contingent upon receiving the appropriate environmental permits.

#### **4.2.3 Starr Boat Launch**

The Starr Boat Launch is located on 2.1 acres of land on the right bank of the Wells Reservoir near RM 518. It is accessible via Highway 97. This site includes a gravel parking area, concrete boat launch and vault toilet. Recreation users access the Wells Reservoir via the Starr Boat Launch for boating, skiing and waterfowl hunting.

#### **4.2.4 Methow Fishing Access**

The Methow Fishing Access was funded by Douglas PUD and is located off of State Highway 153 approximately ½ mile from Highway 97 at the confluence of the Columbia and Methow rivers. The site is 2.4 acres and includes a gravel car-top boat launch, gravel parking area and two vault toilets.

#### **4.2.5 Chicken Creek Boat Launch**

The Chicken Creek Boat Launch is located near RM 537 at Washburn Island where Chicken Creek flows into the Washburn Pond. The facilities at the site are owned by Douglas PUD and include a concrete plank boat launch, gravel parking lot and vault toilet. The boat launch provides access to the Washburn Pond but not the Wells Reservoir.

#### **4.2.6 Monse Bridge Boat Launch**

The Monse Bridge Boat Launch was developed by Douglas PUD and is located on the right bank of the Okanogan River at RM 4.7. Facilities at the boat launch include a concrete plank launching ramp, gravel parking and a vault toilet.

#### **4.2.7 Cassimer Bar Fishing Access**

The Cassimer Bar Fishing Access site was developed by Douglas PUD and is located on the left bank of the Okanogan River near RM 1. The site is in close proximity to the Highway 97 Bridge near the confluence of the Okanogan and Columbia rivers. This site includes shoreline access, a parking area, and a vault toilet.

#### **4.2.8 Okanogan River Informal Boat Launch and Fishing Site 1**

The Okanogan River Informal Boat Launch 1 is located on the right bank of the Okanogan River at RM 2.5. Public access to the site is available via Monse River Road off of Highway 97. This undeveloped area serves as a boat launch primarily for fishermen and waterfowl hunters. This site also provides shoreline fishing access.

#### **4.2.9 Okanogan River Informal Boat Launch and Fishing Site 2**

The Okanogan River Informal Boat Launch 2 is located on the right bank of the Okanogan River at RM 6.7. Public access to the site is available via Monse River Road. This undeveloped area serves as boat launch for waterfowl hunters and fishermen. This site also provides shoreline fishing access.

### **5.0 RECREATION PLAN MEASURES**

#### **5.1 Recreation Facility Improvement Program**

Douglas PUD conducted three studies during the relicensing process to identify and support future recreation needs at the Wells Project. A Recreation Visitor Use Assessment (DTA 2006) was conducted in 2005 to identify recreation use and preferences related to the Wells Project. In 2007, a Recreational Needs Analysis (DTA 2008) was conducted to identify current and potential future recreation needs in the Project area over the course of the new license term. In 2008, a Public Access Study (Jacobs Engineering 2008) was conducted to identify areas of the reservoir that may be difficult to access due to reservoir operations, aquatic plant growth, or obstructions.

Douglas PUD evaluated the results of these and other studies to identify Project-related improvements that could be implemented during the term of the new license. Proposed recreation-related improvements are summarized below.

##### **5.1.1 Wells Dam Overlook Interpretive Displays**

The Wells Dam Visitor Center, previously located inside Wells Dam, has been closed to the public since 2001 due to security concerns. The Visitor Center included a variety of exhibits about the Wells Project, power generation, and regional history and geography. The facility also included a fish viewing window at the west fish ladder.

In order to continue to provide educational and interpretive information about the Wells Project, Douglas PUD will design and build a series of concrete interpretive display panels at Wells Dam Overlook Park within the Project Boundary. Exhibits may include, but not be limited to, power generation, the history of Wells Dam, benefits of hydropower, fish and wildlife, and recreation. A live video feed of the Wells Project fish ladder will also be provided at the facility. The exhibits will be completed by year 3 of the new license. Appendix A includes conceptual designs of the proposed interpretive exhibits. Designs are subject to change based on site conditions, permitting, and cost.

### **5.1.2 Marina Park Expansion**

The results of the Recreation Needs Analysis (DTA 2008) estimated that Marina Park in Bridgeport receives the most visitation of any location on the Wells Project. Marina Park received 4,324 to 5,750 visitors, or “recreation days”, which is 30 percent of Wells Project total estimated visitation. Marina Park is often filled to capacity during peak recreation season.

To accommodate increasing use, Douglas PUD will expand Marina Park to include an additional 10 RV spaces. The park will be expanded to the north, along the river within Project Boundary. The expansion will include all facilities needed to accommodate recreation use associated with 10 additional RV spaces, including restroom facilities, lift stations, landscaping and access roads. The expansion will be completed by year 5 of the new license. Appendix B includes a conceptual design for the proposed expansion. Designs are subject to change based on site conditions, permitting and cost.

### **5.1.3 Boat-in Tent Camping and Signage**

The Recreation Needs Analysis (DTA, 2008) identified a need to improve access for non-motorized boat users. The study further identified potential opportunities for coordination with the Greater Columbia Water Trail (GCWT) Coalition so that non-motorized boat-in camping facilities would be consistent with other sections of the Columbia River.

To accommodate non-motorized boat users, Douglas PUD will implement several measures to improve access for non-motorized boaters, including installing GCWT signs and informational material at appropriate Wells Project recreational access facilities; providing information on portaging around Wells Dam; constructing a formal boat-in tent camping facility in the vicinity of the Okanogan River, including restroom and picnic shelter; and designating and providing basic improvements for an informal/rustic boat-in tent camping location on the west side of the river within several miles of Wells Dam. These improvements will be implemented on the following schedule:

- By year 2 of the new license, install GCWT signs and informational material at appropriate Wells Project recreational access facilities;
- By year 2 of the new license, provide information on portaging around Wells Dam;
- By year 2 of the new license, designate and provide basic improvements for an informal/rustic tent camping location on the west side of the river within several miles of Wells Dam; and
- By year 5 of the new license, construct a formal tent camping facility in the vicinity of the Okanogan River, including restroom and picnic shelter;

Camping facilities would be designated for non-motorized boat use only, and would be located within the Wells Project Boundary. Maintenance and operation of these facilities would be provided by Douglas PUD. Appendix C includes a conceptual design of the proposed formal campsite. Designs are subject to change based on site conditions, permitting and cost.

#### **5.1.4 Extend Chicken Creek Boat Launch**

The Public Access Study (Jacobs Engineering 2008) evaluated how reservoir elevations affected access to and from Wells Project boat launch facilities, fishing access sites, and swimming areas. The study determined that 15 out of 17 formal access sites were accessible greater than 95% of the time. In 2008, the Winter Boat Launch in Pateros was repaired and extended, and is now accessible over 98% of the time.

The Chicken Creek Boat Launch is located on Washburn Pond within the Wells Project Boundary. Lower pond levels often occur in the fall season, and public access can be restricted due to the short length of the launch. By year 3 of the new license, Douglas PUD will place additional concrete planks at the end of the launch in order to extend the launch for improved access during the fall season.

#### **5.1.5 Reservoir Navigation Maps**

In order to facilitate effective navigation of the reservoir, Douglas PUD will install maps of the reservoir showing areas of the reservoir where shallow waters may be encountered. These maps will be installed at high-use boat launches in Pateros, Brewster, and Bridgeport by year 2 of the new license.

### **5.2 Recreation Facility Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring Program**

#### **5.2.1 Recreation Facilities Operation and Maintenance**

For the term of the new license, Douglas PUD will continue to ensure the operation and maintenance of recreation facilities described in this management plan and associated with the new license for the Wells Project. Administration, operation, and maintenance activities will include, but are not limited to maintaining parking areas, lawns, restrooms, lights, water, power, sewer/septic, playground equipment, shelters, and playfields. Table 5.2-1 provides a general description of the type of O&M activities anticipated to occur at each of the recreation facilities. Douglas PUD may contract for the necessary personnel, equipment, and/or materials in order to achieve the O&M standards.

**Table 5.2-1 General maintenance activities at recreation facilities managed by Douglas PUD at the Wells Project.**

<b>Maintenance Activity</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
<b>Buildings/restrooms/shelters:</b> Structures will be sanitary and maintained in good repair. If a structure is deemed in need of repair, it will be closed until repairs are completed.	<p>During the high-use season (April – October), all facilities will be inspected at regular intervals (several times per week, as necessary). During the low-use season, facilities such as those located in the cities will be inspected less frequently but at regular intervals, and rustic facilities will be inspected periodically.</p> <p>The interior and exterior of all structures will be painted as needed; this is expected to be about every three years.</p> <p>Buildings will receive structural inspection at least once in 10 years, unless a safety issue is reported and confirmed sooner.</p>
<b>Boat Ramps:</b> Surfaces are to be kept in good and serviceable condition, and free of debris.	Boat ramps will be inspected at regular intervals during the high-use season of April through November.
<b>Boat Docks:</b> Dock surfaces, hardware, bumper strips, and other components will be maintained to provide safe and effective use.	Docks will be inspected for wear, obstacles, and damage/vandalism at regular intervals. Maintenance and repairs will be performed on an as-needed basis.
<b>Picnic sites/camp sites:</b> Inspect for cleanliness, damage, and vandalism. Tables will be sturdy and ready for use. Grills and fire pits will be in good working condition.	Picnic sites/camp sites will be inspected frequently (daily or weekly) during April through September, weekly or as needed in October and November and intermittently during the remainder of the year.
<b>Trash/litter collection:</b> The park areas will be kept clean. Trash containers will be emptied regularly.	Trash containers will be emptied at least once per week at city facilities and at least once every two weeks at rustic facilities. Trash containers will also be emptied following holiday weekends during April through November.
<b>Access roads and pavement:</b> Roads and pavement will be maintained in good and passable condition.	Roads will be inspected annually and repaired as needed. Damaged roads/pavement will be scheduled for repair, if needed, within the year following the identification of significant damage.
<b>Trails:</b> Trail surfaces will be maintained in good condition and barriers will be removed to allow use of the trail. Trees and shrubs along the trails will be trimmed or removed seasonally and weeds will be controlled as needed.	Trails will be inspected weekly during the April through November season and intermittently the remainder of the year.
<b>Park grounds/turf:</b> Grass areas and gardens will be kept up through use of irrigation, fertilization, weed removal, and pesticide application where necessary. Grass will be mowed based on need. Signs will be installed during and after application of pesticides. Trees will be trimmed as needed.	Grass in parks will be mowed regularly. Roadsides and other natural areas at park facilities will be mowed as needed.
<b>Snow removal:</b> Snow will be removed from roads, parking areas, and trails at city parks in Brewster, Bridgeport, and Pateros and at the Wells Dam Overlook.	Snow will be removed within one day or as soon as feasible following a snow event.
<b>Aquatic plant control:</b> Aquatic plants will be controlled in designated swimming areas at Peninsula Park, Columbia Cove Park, and Marina Park.	Aquatic plants will be controlled in swimming areas on an as needed basis, using the most feasible methods. Methods may include, but not be limited to, harvesting, application of herbicide, or installation of liners or barriers.

## 5.2.2 Wildlife Viewing Trail Development

The Recreation Needs Analysis (DTA 2008) identified a need for additional wildlife viewing trails at the Wells Project. This action is consistent with growing interest in wildlife viewing and sightseeing identified in the Washington Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Program (SCORP) and visitor surveys.

Existing trails in the Wells Project include walking trails at Memorial Park located in the City of Pateros, and the Waterfront Trail located in the City of Brewster. Opportunities may exist for additional trail development at one of these locations or at other developed recreation facilities, such as Wells Overlook. Incorporating new trail facilities at these locations may better accommodate recreationists, by offering multiple recreation opportunities at a single location, while also enhancing tourism and local economies. Concentrating these facilities in populated areas may also have a lower impact on wildlife. However, opportunities for additional trail facilities in these areas may be limited by existing developments such as the railroad, highways, and residential and commercial developments, which constrain the shoreline in both of these areas.

Opportunities may also exist for trail development within one of the Wells Project's designated wildlife areas. Wildlife area shorelines are less constrained than those found in developed areas. However, trail development at these locations is more likely to conflict with wildlife and wildlife habitat. Additionally, developing trails in shoreline and riparian environments may not be compatible with Endangered Species Act requirements, Douglas PUD's Land Use Policy, and the Wells Project Habitat Conservation Plan.

To address wildlife viewing and trail development, Douglas PUD will do the following:

### TRAILS

- By the end of year 2 of the new license (May 31, 2014), initiate a feasibility study for trails in or near Brewster, Bridgeport and/or Pateros within the Wells Project Boundary. The objectives of the study would be to: 1) evaluate the opportunities and constraints of constructing additional trails in or near population centers, within the Wells Project Boundary; 2) prepare conceptual designs and cost estimates for the most feasible routes; and 3) prepare recommendations for trail improvements.
- In conjunction with the Form 80 review (March, 2015), Douglas PUD and the RRWG will evaluate the results of the trail feasibility study and identify appropriate measures for meeting local needs for trail development.
- Measures for implementation will be prioritized based on documented need, environmental impacts, cost, and overall appropriateness for the Wells Project, as determined by Douglas PUD and the RRWG. Selected measures must be acceptable to the RRWG, Douglas PUD and will be subject to FERC approval.
- If feasible measures are identified, implement the selected measure, or combination of measures up to a maximum of five (5) miles of non-motorized trails, prior to the 2021 Form 80 monitoring cycle.

### WILDLIFE VIEWING

- By the end of year 2 of the new license (May 31, 2014), in consultation with the RRWG, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Colville Confederated Tribes, develop a plan for wildlife viewing facility enhancements.
- In conjunction with the Form 80 review (March, 2015), Douglas PUD and the RRWG will evaluate the wildlife viewing enhancement plan and identify appropriate measures to be implemented within the Project Boundary.
- Measures for wildlife viewing enhancement implementation will be prioritized based on documented need, environmental impacts, cost, and overall appropriateness for the Wells Project, as determined by Douglas PUD and the RRWG. Selected measures must be acceptable to the RRWG, Douglas PUD and will be subject to FERC approval.
- Measures may include, but not be limited to interpretive signs, wildlife viewing guides, and web based information about Douglas PUD's wildlife programs.
- Implement the selected measure, or combination of measures prior to the 2021 Form 80 monitoring cycle.

### **5.2.3 Promotion of Recreation Facilities**

To support the use of Wells Project recreation facilities, Douglas PUD will make available printed and web-based material showing day-use sites, boat launches, wildlife viewing areas, campsites, trails, etc. These materials will be made available by year 2 of the new license.

Proposed recreation measures must be reviewed by the appropriate federal, state, and/or local permitting agencies. New facilities and significant upgrades will be designed and sited in accordance with the applicable permitting and environmental requirements. Any new construction or significant upgrades will comply with the then-current ADA requirements.

### **5.2.4 Recreation Resources Monitoring and Evaluation Program**

Recreation use monitoring will be an important component in determining when changes are required at Project recreation facilities to ensure adequate recreation access during the license term. Douglas PUD will collect recreation data in the Project area as needed to complete the FERC Form 80 requirement<sup>1</sup>. Douglas PUD will use appropriate monitoring and analysis techniques to complete FERC Form 80 reporting. Recreation facility condition will be determined by periodic on-site inspections of each facility managed under this RMP.

Every 20 years during the term of the new license, Douglas PUD will conduct a comprehensive recreation study to assess recreation use and needs related to the Wells Project. The scope of the study will be similar to that contained in the 2006 Recreation Visitor Use Assessment (DTA 2006) and the 2008 Recreational Needs Analysis (DTA 2008). Douglas PUD will consult with interested parties in developing the final study plans. Douglas PUD will convene the RRWG every six years, immediately after submittal of the Form 80. The RRWG will discuss current

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<sup>1</sup> The FERC Form 80, *Licensed Hydropower Development Recreation Report*, is a brief summary of the existing recreation conditions and facilities associated with a FERC licensed hydroelectric project. Based on current FERC regulations, the forms must be completed every six years to document current public recreation use within the Project area.

RMP activities and whether the RMP is continuing to meet the recreation needs within the Project Boundary.

Any changes to the RMP must be based on documented changes in use patterns, visitor needs (including facility upgrades), or new state mandates or regulations that are relevant to recreation in the Project area during the license term. Any disagreements regarding revisions to the RMP will be submitted to FERC for resolution.

## **6.0 RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE**

The RMP will become effective following FERC approval and issuance of a new FERC license. A summary of the specific implementation measures and schedule is provided in Table 6.0-1.

Table 6.0-1 Recreation Management Plan Measures

Action	Timeline
<b><u>Wells Dam Overlook Interpretive Displays</u></b> (Section 5.1.1): Construct new interpretive exhibits at Wells Dam Overlook Park.	By year 3 of the new license.
<b><u>Marina Park Expansion</u></b> (Section 5.1.2): Add 10 additional RV spaces.	By year 5 of the new license
<b><u>Boat-in Tent Camping</u></b> (Section 5.1.3): Construct a formal boat-in tent camping facility for non-motorized boat users.	By year 5 of the new license.
<b><u>Boat-in Tent Camping and Signage</u></b> (Section 5.1.3): Construct a rustic boat-in tent camping facility for non-motorized boat users.	By year 2 of the new license.
<b><u>Boat-in Tent Camping and Signage</u></b> (Section 5.1.3): Provide signs and informational material for non-motorized boat users. (Section 5.1.3)	By year 2 of the new license.
<b><u>Extend Chicken Creek Boat Launch</u></b> (Section 5.1.4): Extend the Chicken Creek launch 10 feet.	By year 3 of the new license.
<b><u>Reservoir Navigation Maps</u></b> (Section 5.1.5): Install reservoir navigation maps at boat launches.	By year 2 of the new license.
<b><u>Recreation Facilities O&amp;M</u></b> (Section 5.2.1): Ensure that O&M standards are met at all Wells Project recreation facilities.	Continuous
<b><u>Wildlife Viewing Trail Development</u></b> (Section 5.2.2): Initiate a trail feasibility study.	By year 2 of the new license.
<b><u>Wildlife Viewing Trail Development</u></b> (Section 5.2.2): Evaluate results of trail feasibility study and identify measures.	In conjunction with 2015 Form 80 review.
<b><u>Wildlife Viewing Trail Development</u></b> (Section 5.2.2): Implement trail measures as appropriate.	By 2021 Form 80 monitoring cycle.
<b><u>Wildlife Viewing Trail Development</u></b> (Section 5.2.2): Develop wildlife viewing enhancement plan.	By year 2 of the new license.
<b><u>Wildlife Viewing Trail Development</u></b> (Section 5.2.2): Evaluate wildlife viewing enhancement plan with RRWG and identify appropriate measures.	In conjunction with 2015 Form 80 review.
<b><u>Wildlife Viewing Trail Development</u></b> (Section 5.2.2): Implement wildlife viewing enhancements.	By 2021 Form 80 monitoring cycle.
<b><u>Promotion of Recreation Facilities</u></b> (Section 5.2.3): Promote recreation facilities through printed and web-based materials.	By year 2 of the new license.
<b><u>Recreation Resources Monitoring and Evaluation Program</u></b> (Section 5.2.4): Form 80 reports and any relevant monitoring data will be provided to the RWG.	Every 6 years or as determined by FERC.
<b><u>Recreation Resources Monitoring and Evaluation Program</u></b> (Section 5.2.4): Douglas PUD will convene the RWG to discuss Form 80 results and to discuss whether the RMP is meeting recreation needs.	Every 6 years after submittal of the Form 80 report.
<b><u>Recreation Resources Monitoring and Evaluation Program</u></b> (Section 5.2.4): Conduct a Recreation Use/Needs Study to document changes in recreation use and needs.	Every 20 years

## 7.0 REFERENCES

Douglas PUD (Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County). 1967. Recreation Plan. Wells Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 2149. Prepared by Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, East Wenatchee, Washington.

Douglas PUD. 1974. Recreation Plan Supplement. Wells Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 2149. Prepared by Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, East Wenatchee, Washington.

Douglas PUD. 1982. Public Use Plan. Wells Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 2149. Prepared by Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, East Wenatchee, Washington.

Douglas PUD. 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2007. Recreation Action Plans. Wells Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 2149. Prepared by Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, East Wenatchee, Washington.

DTA (Devine, Tarbell & Associates). 2006. Recreation Visitor Use Assessment. Wells Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 2149. Prepared by DTA for Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, East Wenatchee, Washington.

DTA. 2008. An Evaluation of Recreational Needs Within the Wells Project. Wells Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 2149. Prepared by DTA for Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, East Wenatchee, Washington.

Jacobs Engineering. 2008. Evaluation of Public Access to and use of the Wells Reservoir as it Relates to Reservoir Fluctuations, Aquatic Plants and Substrate Buildup. Wells Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 2149. Prepared by Jacobs Engineering for Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, East Wenatchee, Washington.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Conceptual Design Wells Dam Overlook Interpretive Facilities**

Wells Dam Interpretive Exhibit - Site View

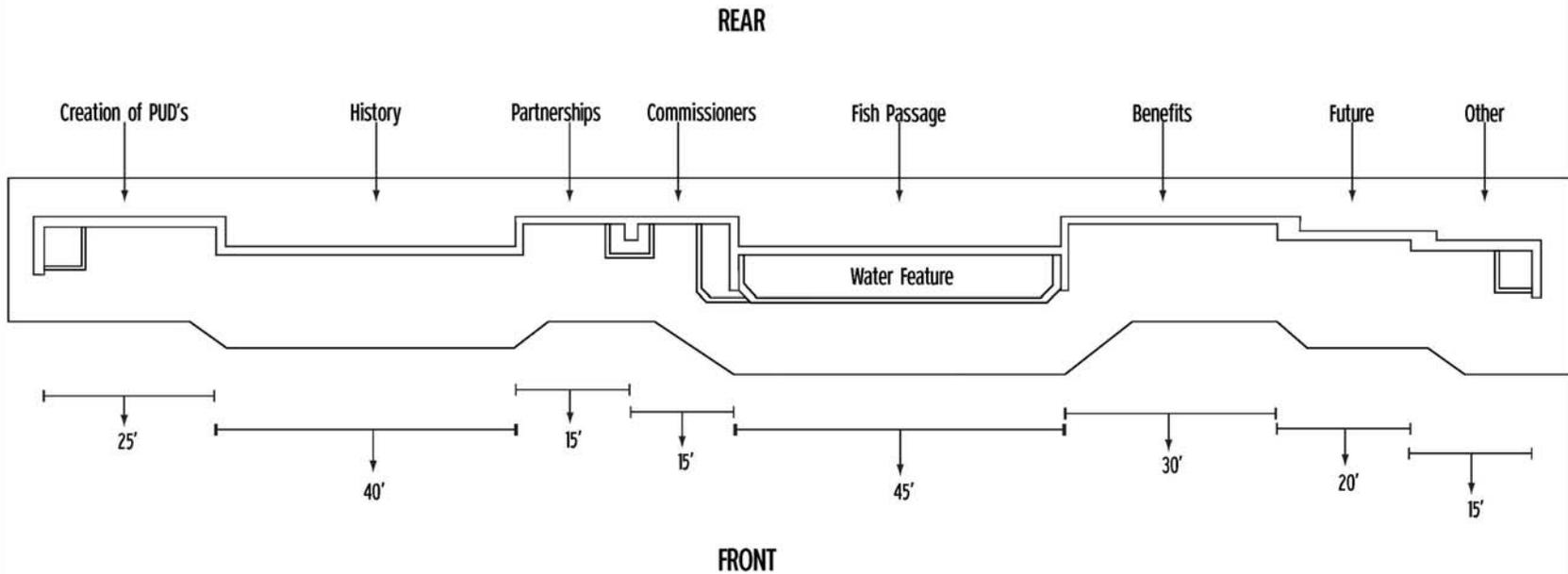


Wells Dam Interpretive Exhibit - Design Concept Perspective View



Connection to existing ADA path

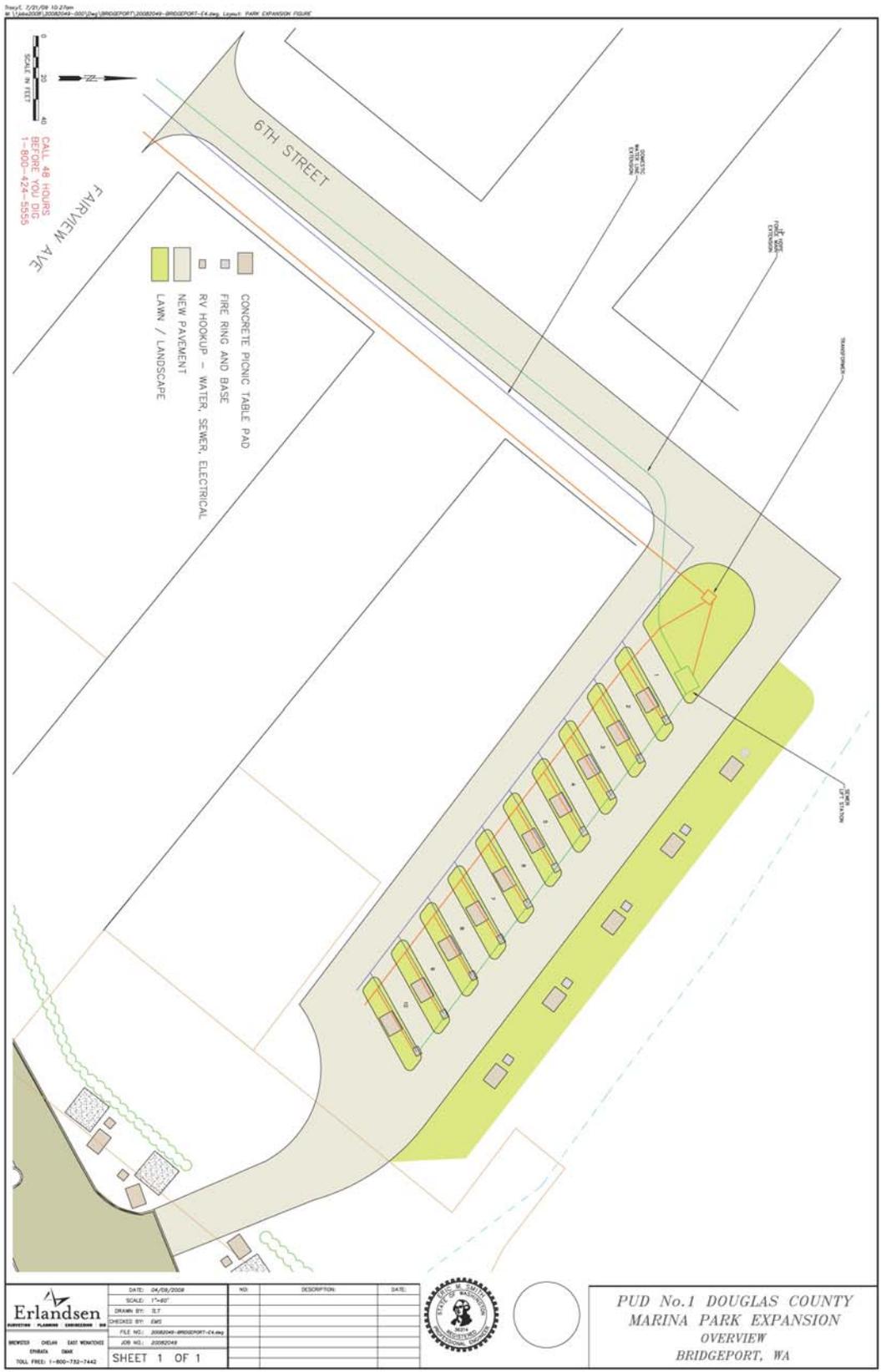
Wells Dam Interpretive Exhibit - Design Concept Plan View



Not to Scale

## **APPENDIX B**

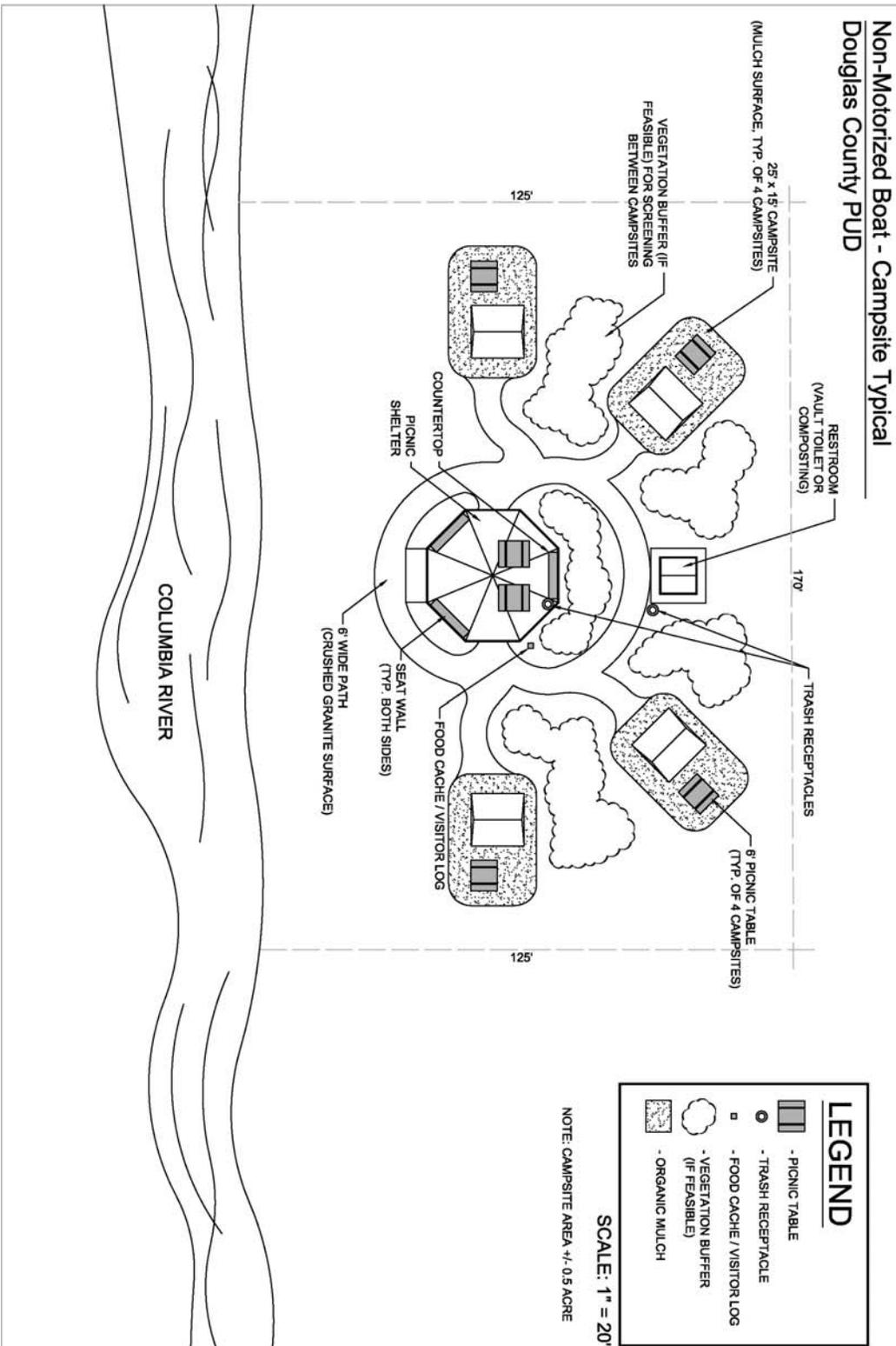
### **Conceptual Design Marina Park Expansion**



## **APPENDIX C**

### **Conceptual Design Non-Motorized Boat-in Tent Campsite**

# Non-Motorized Boat - Campsite Typical Douglas County PUD



**LEGEND**

- PICNIC TABLE
- TRASH RECEPTACLE
- FOOD CACHE / VISITOR LOG
- VEGETATION BUFFER (IF FEASIBLE)
- ORGANIC MULCH

NOTE: CAMPSITE AREA +/- 0.5 ACRE

SCALE: 1" = 20'