

**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery
SWISP Project Draft EIS Public Meeting - Transcript**

December 10, 2020 10:00-11:30am PT

00:00:09.660 --> 00:00:21.510

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Hello everyone, I'd like to welcome you all to the December 10th public meeting for the Bureau of Reclamation Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery SWISP Project Draft EIS.

00:00:21.900 --> 00:00:29.610

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: We're going to get folks a few minutes here to join the meeting, and then we will begin the PowerPoint presentation shortly, so please stay tuned. Thank you.

00:01:43.800 --> 00:01:54.450

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Again, I'd like to welcome everyone to today's meeting. We're going to get folks just a few more minutes here to join the meeting. So please stay tuned, and we'll start the presentation shortly. Thank you.

00:03:07.620 --> 00:03:14.640

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Hello everyone. We are going to go ahead and get started with our public meeting today. I would like to thank you all for joining us today.

00:03:15.390 --> 00:03:22.590

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: We appreciate your time and participation. My name is Amanda Biedermann, and I'm going to be one of your meeting facilitators today.

00:03:23.190 --> 00:03:30.960

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Additionally, I have several members of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with me on the meeting today.

00:03:31.650 --> 00:03:44.280

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: From the Bureau of Reclamation, we have Christi Davis-Kernan, the SWISP project manager; Jason Sutter, the NEPA Co-lead from the Columbia-Pacific Northwest Regional Office;

00:03:44.970 --> 00:04:04.530

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Elizabeth Heether, the NEPA Co-lead from the Columbia-Cascades Area Office; Rebecca Thompson, the NEPA specialist from the Columbia-Pacific Northwest Regional Office. And then, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we have Jim Craig, the Leavenworth Fisheries Complex Manager.

00:04:08.370 --> 00:04:11.490

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: I'm now going to go over some ground rules for the meeting today.

00:04:12.000 --> 00:04:24.150

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: First, your microphones and videos will be turned off for the duration of the presentation. You will only be unmuted if and when I unmute you during the Q and A or public comment portion of this meeting.

00:04:24.960 --> 00:04:33.450

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Second, this meeting is being recorded as part of the project record, and all materials presenters today will be provided online through the website.

00:04:34.560 --> 00:04:39.630

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Questions will be addressed during the Question-and-Answer session at the end of this presentation.

00:04:40.230 --> 00:04:48.060

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: We will do our best to address questions in the order that they come in and to allow everyone an opportunity to voice their questions today.

00:04:48.990 --> 00:04:55.620

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Finally, after we have answered questions submitted during the Q and A, we will then move on to the public comment portion of the meeting,

00:04:56.100 --> 00:05:12.420

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: During which we will accept verbal public comments from participants. I do want to note that comments may be time-limited today in order to allow everyone who is on the meeting today the opportunity to offer their comment. We ask that you be mindful and respectful of this time limit.

00:05:14.910 --> 00:05:22.680

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: If you do not get the opportunity to offer your verbal comment today, written public comments can also be submitted via mail or email.

00:05:23.130 --> 00:05:34.920

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And we will provide further information on how to submit your written comments after the presentation. I'm now going to turn it over to Jason Sutter to lead us through the main part of the presentation for the Draft EIS.

00:05:41.820 --> 00:05:42.270

USBR - Jason Sutter: Thanks Amanda.

00:05:43.590 --> 00:05:51.690

USBR - Jason Sutter: Hello everyone, my name is Jason Sutter, and I'd like to welcome you to the Bureau of Reclamation Question-and-Answer/public comment video teleconference

00:05:52.080 --> 00:05:58.740

USBR - Jason Sutter: For the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Surface Water Intake Fish Screens and Fish Passage Project or SWISP.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: I'd like to thank everyone participating in today's video conference for your time and involvement in the public comment process.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: During today's hour and a half video conference, we will start with a presentation, providing a brief project background, including the purpose of and need for the project.

00:06:15.000 --> 00:06:26.970

USBR - Jason Sutter: We'll present the proposed action and alternatives, and discuss the key differences between them, and finally provide information on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement or Draft EIS public comment process.

00:06:27.630 --> 00:06:37.140

USBR - Jason Sutter: After the presentation, we will conduct a brief Question-and-Answer session and conclude by offering the public an opportunity to provide verbal comments on the Draft EIS.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Before we start, I'd like to give Christi Davis-Kernan, Reclamation SWISP project manager, and Jim Craig, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Leavenworth Fishery Complex Manager, a chance to provide some opening remarks. Christi?

00:07:01.890 --> 00:07:08.580

Christi Davis-Kernan: Hi, good morning, everyone. And I just want to say thank you for joining us today on our video teleconference.

00:07:09.060 --> 00:07:15.600

Christi Davis-Kernan: And I just kinda want to clear up that I am actually not the project manager. I am the technical projects program manager overseeing

00:07:15.990 --> 00:07:25.080

Christi Davis-Kernan: Project management and implementation for this project. David Child is actually the assigned project manager for this project, and he's done an amazing job.

00:07:25.710 --> 00:07:35.700

Christi Davis-Kernan: And so I kind of want to go over our mission for Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner

00:07:36.150 --> 00:07:43.260

Christi Davis-Kernan: In the interest of the American public. This Environmental Impact Statement is an important part of our mission, and we thank you for being a part of this today.

00:07:50.910 --> 00:07:51.720

USFWS - Jim Craig: Thank you Christi.

00:07:52.920 --> 00:08:03.900

USFWS - Jim Craig: This is Jim Craig. I'm the complex manager of the Leavenworth Fisheries Complex. The complex consists of Winthrop, Entiat, and Leavenworth National Fish hatcheries. All of them were built in 1940.

00:08:04.800 --> 00:08:15.240

USFWS - Jim Craig: Collectively, these hatcheries implement salmon and steelhead fish production programs as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of Grand Coulee Dam.

00:08:16.500 --> 00:08:24.990

USFWS - Jim Craig: Several assessments of the complex facilities over the years have noted that much of the infrastructure is nearing the end of its expected working lifetime.

00:08:26.550 --> 00:08:36.540

USFWS - Jim Craig: So we arrive at the project at hand. Leavenworth's primary point of diversion and water delivery system on Icicle Creek is about eighty years old and reaching, or exceeding, its operational life.

00:08:37.170 --> 00:08:41.430

USFWS - Jim Craig: In addition, the intake does not meet current fish screening criteria for salmon and steelhead.

00:08:42.300 --> 00:08:55.740

USFWS - Jim Craig: The Hatchery, Leavenworth Hatchery, is therefore working under a biological opinion for the National Marine Fisheries Service, to have a new screen intake in place and operating by the spring of May 2023 and that is what we are endeavoring to do here.

00:08:57.240 --> 00:09:04.800

USFWS - Jim Craig: Finally, the preservation and conservation of aquatic species in their habitats is fundamental to the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

00:09:05.340 --> 00:09:12.270

USFWS - Jim Craig: This intake project for the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery will assure we continue to meet both our fish production responsibilities.

00:09:12.630 --> 00:09:25.380

USFWS - Jim Craig: And that we also do so in a way that protects and benefits aquatic species and their habitats in-stream. Thank you all for participating in this process, and we look forward to a successful completion of this project soon. Thank you.

00:09:29.550 --> 00:09:40.260

USBR - Jason Sutter: Okay, thank you, Christi and Jim, for those opening remarks. With that, I'm going to start the presentation. And so a little introduction and background.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Reclamation is proposing to rehabilitate, replace, and modernize the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Surface

Water Intake Delivery System on Icicle Creek near Leavenworth, Washington.

00:09:51.120 --> 00:09:56.700

USBR - Jason Sutter: The Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery is one of three hatcheries established by the Grand Coulee fish maintenance project

00:09:57.210 --> 00:10:15.540

USBR - Jason Sutter: To compensate for anadromous fish losses above Grand Coulee Dam. Operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and funded by Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration, the Hatchery raises and releases 1.2 million spring chinook salmon smolts into Icicle Creek annually.

00:10:22.470 --> 00:10:27.540

USBR - Jason Sutter: The SWISP project is located near the City of Leavenworth in Chelan county in the state of Washington.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: The Hatchery's surface water intake and delivery system and fish production facilities are located on lands owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adjacent to Icicle Creek.

00:10:37.440 --> 00:10:44.430

USBR - Jason Sutter: The Icicle Creek watershed is primarily located in the U.S. Forest Service's Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

00:10:44.970 --> 00:11:04.890

USBR - Jason Sutter: In addition, a large portion of the watershed occurs within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area on the slide. You can see a general overview of our project area showing some of the components of the project and the possible alternative impact areas that could

00:11:06.420 --> 00:11:08.040

USBR - Jason Sutter: Occur. Next.

00:11:12.150 --> 00:11:20.130

USBR - Jason Sutter: Currently the intake facility does not comply with the National Marine Fisheries Service or NMFS criteria for anadromous salmonids.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: The 2017 NMFS biological opinion covering operations requires the Hatchery to have a NMFS-compliant surface water intake and delivery system in place and operating by May 2023.

00:11:33.480 --> 00:11:49.560

USBR - Jason Sutter: The purpose of the SWISP project is to minimize take of ESA-listed fish species, provide fish passage that complies with current regulatory criteria, and ensure safe, efficient, and reliable delivery of the Hatchery's full surface water rights from Icicle Creek.

00:11:50.850 --> 00:11:51.090

USBR - Jason Sutter: Next,

00:11:54.360 --> 00:12:02.640

USBR - Jason Sutter: Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff have been working closely with many Federal, state, local, and Tribal agencies, and stakeholders

00:12:02.970 --> 00:12:18.900

USBR - Jason Sutter: To develop a project that meets current regulatory requirements and the needs and obligations of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery. On the slide you can see are cooperating agencies, participating agencies, and a list of interested parties in this project.

00:12:21.030 --> 00:12:21.420

USBR - Jason Sutter: Next.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: The SWISP public scoping process began on April 24, 2020 with the publication in the Federal Register of the Notice of Intent to prepare any EIS for the SWISP project.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Publication of the Notice of Intent kicked off a 30-day public scoping period for Federal, state, and local agencies, Tribes, and the public to provide information identify issues and offer alternatives for the project.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Comments received during scoping helped us identify issues for analysis in the EIS and refine the project alternatives.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: The results of the scoping process are presented in the June 2020 scoping report.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: The SWISP alternatives development process incorporated information from scoping and resulted in a range of alternatives, ultimately including three action alternatives.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: The results of that process are presented in the November 2020 Alternatives Compilation Report. Both reports are available on Reclamation's SWISP project website.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Next.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: The primary resources and uses that may be impacted by the project include fisheries and aquatic ecosystems, noise and vibration, water quality, transportation and traffic, and Tribal interests.

00:13:46.830 --> 00:13:54.000

USBR - Jason Sutter: Four alternatives are analyzed in detail in the Draft EIS. NEPA requires an analysis of a No Action Alternative.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Under Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, all intake features would remain in place and would not be modified, improved, or rehabilitated.

00:14:03.390 --> 00:14:07.980

USBR - Jason Sutter: And the existing water intake and delivery system would remain in its current degraded condition.

00:14:08.880 --> 00:14:22.920

USBR - Jason Sutter: The intake facility would not comply with fish screening and passage criteria, would not meet the 2017 biological opinion requirements, safety issues would persist, and reliability of the system would remain a concern.

00:14:24.990 --> 00:14:25.380

USBR - Jason Sutter: Next.

00:14:28.230 --> 00:14:38.310

USBR - Jason Sutter: Under Alternative B, Reclamation proposes to rehabilitate the Hatchery's intake and delivery system by constructing new intake headworks and a creek-width roughened channel,

00:14:38.880 --> 00:14:43.200

USBR - Jason Sutter: And replacing and lining the surface water conveyance pipeline to the Hatchery.

00:14:43.980 --> 00:14:52.020

USBR - Jason Sutter: In addition, the current intake access road would be modified and extended to provide better entry to an expanded intake operations and maintenance area.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: The conveyance pipeline will be replaced on Fish and Wildlife Service lands and lined with cure-in-place or CIPP liner on private parcels.

00:15:02.610 --> 00:15:10.800

USBR - Jason Sutter: Construction of several access points along the existing pipeline alignment would be installed to provide ingress and egress for pipelining activities.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Water supply to the Hatchery would be maintained during construction through either a gravity-fed bypass connected to the existing pipeline

00:15:18.720 --> 00:15:25.200

USBR - Jason Sutter: Or through pumping from the spillway pool adjacent to the Hatchery. Staging sites would be located on Hatchery grounds.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Trucks hauling construction equipment and containing construction materials will be required to turn around approximately one mile above the intake construction area. Access to the pipeline would use existing roads and the pipeline right-of-way.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Construction of the intake facilities would take place up to 24 hours a day, seven days a week, during a four and a half month in-water work window from July to mid-November.

00:15:50.610 --> 00:15:58.800

USBR - Jason Sutter: Under this construction schedule, the intake facilities are anticipated to be completed in two in-water work seasons. Next.

00:16:02.520 --> 00:16:09.330

USBR - Jason Sutter: Construction of the intake headworks and roughened channel would incorporate the existing low head diversion dam and intake channel.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Self-cleaning, cylindrical fish screens would be installed at the diversion headworks, and a low flow boulder weir fishway would be integrated into the roughened channel to facilitate passage.

00:16:22.110 --> 00:16:32.130

USBR - Jason Sutter: A new pipeline would be placed in the intake channel to connect the headworks to the conveyance pipeline.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: The intake channel would be filled to cover the pipeline and create the intake operation and maintenance area. All action alternatives include construction of the intake facility features in this conceptual drawings

00:16:47.820 --> 00:16:48.240

USBR - Jason Sutter: Next.

00:16:51.330 --> 00:17:06.390

USBR - Jason Sutter: Under Alternative C, intake facility features would be the same as Alternative B as just mentioned. However, under Alternative C, more of the conveyance pipeline to the Hatchery would be lined with cure-in-place lining, and less pipeline would be replaced.

00:17:08.700 --> 00:17:09.120

USBR - Jason Sutter: Next.

00:17:14.190 --> 00:17:21.300

USBR - Jason Sutter: Under Alternative D, intake facility features and pipeline rehabilitation would be the same as Alternative B.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: However, under Alternative D, construction of intake facilities would be limited to 7am to 10pm up to six days a week during a four month in-water work window from July through October.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Under this construction schedule, the intake facilities are anticipated to be completed in four in-water work seasons.

00:17:43.980 --> 00:17:44.280

USBR - Jason Sutter: Next.

00:17:47.460 --> 00:17:55.320

USBR - Jason Sutter: This table provides a summary of the key differences between the action alternatives. The primary differences involved the construction schedule,

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USBR - Jason Sutter: The time the intake facilities will be operational and compliant, the amount of pipeline replaced or CIPP lined, and the amount of temporary pumping necessary to keep the Hatchery in operation.

00:18:10.590 --> 00:18:10.980

USBR - Jason Sutter: Next.

00:18:13.020 --> 00:18:19.470

USBR - Jason Sutter: After consideration of the impacts, Reclamation selected Alternative C as the preferred alternative.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Alternative C was selected as the preferred alternative because the construction schedule best meets the 2017 biological opinion requirements and impacts the riparian corridor least due to less excavation and disturbance needed for pipeline replacement.

00:18:45.000 --> 00:18:53.640

USBR - Jason Sutter: In the Draft EIS, Reclamation evaluated the impacts of the construction and operation of the SWISP project on the natural and human environment within the project area.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: The Draft EIS is now available for review, and the public will be offered various opportunities to find out more about this project and provide comments during the 45-day comment period.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: The public can visit the SWISP online virtual public meeting room 24 hours a day throughout the comment period and participate in several question and answer/public comment video teleconferences as you are all doing today.

00:19:21.240 --> 00:19:21.630

USBR - Jason Sutter: Next.

00:19:24.300 --> 00:19:32.040

USBR - Jason Sutter: The public can participate in the Draft EIS public comment process and provide input through a web-based virtual public meeting room until January 4.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: The virtual meeting is accessible at the web address shown here.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Comments can also be submitted via email and US mail at the addresses provided on the slide. Comments must be submitted by close of business on January 4, 2021. More information can be found on the Reclamation SWISP project website.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Next.

00:20:01.620 --> 00:20:19.890

USBR - Jason Sutter: The Draft EIS will be available for public review for a 45-day comment period ending January 4, 2021. Substantive comments will be analyzed, and changes will be made as necessary to the EIS. We anticipate that the Final EIS will be published in March 2021.

00:20:21.000 --> 00:20:31.170

USBR - Jason Sutter: After a 30-day waiting period, Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service officials are expected to sign and publish the Record of Decision in April 2021.

00:20:34.170 --> 00:20:34.320

USBR - Jason Sutter: And

00:20:36.900 --> 00:20:49.680

USBR - Jason Sutter: This concludes our presentation. Thanks for listening. I'll now turn it over to Amanda so she can provide some information before we begin the Question-and-Answer session and public comment portion of our program. Thank you.

00:20:53.490 --> 00:21:03.000

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Jason. Hello everyone. Again, my name is Amanda Biedermann, and I'm going to be your moderator for the Question-and-Answer session today

00:21:03.360 --> 00:21:09.060

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: As well as the public comment portion of the meeting, which we will get to after this Question-and-Answer session.

00:21:09.660 --> 00:21:19.200

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So we're now going to begin the Q and A portion of this meeting, and the intent of this Question-and-Answer session is to answer any process related questions you have

00:21:19.530 --> 00:21:23.520

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: For Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife staff on the Draft EIS.

00:21:24.180 --> 00:21:36.750

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: The Bureau of Reclamation will not be accepting public comments during this Q and A portion of the meeting. So again, if you would like to make a verbal public comment today, please wait until the public comment portion of the meeting.

00:21:37.800 --> 00:21:47.490

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So I will first go over instructions for how to submit a question using the chat function if you are using the zoom web platform or zoom app.

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EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: After we have gone through questions submitted via the zoom web platform or zoom app chat feature,

00:21:54.210 --> 00:22:01.980

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: We will then move on to any participants calling in over the phone today who would like to ask a question. So please stay tuned for those instructions.

00:22:02.760 --> 00:22:13.590

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So at this time, if you have a question and you are using the zoom web platform or zoom app, please go ahead and click on the chat icon at the bottom of your zoom screen.

00:22:14.010 --> 00:22:25.050

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And if you hover your mouse over the bottom of your zoom screen, that chat icon should appear for you. You may need to exit your full screen of view in zoom in order to see that chat icon.

00:22:26.070 --> 00:22:33.120

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: You can then type your question into the chat box and please send it to the host of today's meeting, Amy Lewis.

00:22:33.810 --> 00:22:41.250

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: I will then read your question aloud for all participants to hear, and a Reclamation staff member will respond to your question aloud.

00:22:41.820 --> 00:22:52.890

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: We will try to answer your questions in the order that they are received. So, please note that there may be a bit of a pause between you asking your question and a Reclamation staff member answering your question.

00:22:55.710 --> 00:23:05.310

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So again, at this time, feel free to go ahead and send any questions you have over to Amy Lewis, and we will read those questions aloud and have a response for you.

00:23:43.980 --> 00:24:01.860

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Alright, so we have our first question from participants, which is question 1. And this question is "What is the difference between the proposed action and the preferred alternative? Which one is Reclamation planning on building?" And I'll go back and unmute Jason to respond to this question.

00:24:04.830 --> 00:24:19.170

USBR - Jason Sutter: Yeah, thank you. I'm actually, I'm wondering if we could go back to that comparison slide with the comparison of the

different alternatives and while you're going back there, yeah, that's it.

00:24:20.400 --> 00:24:41.070

USBR - Jason Sutter: I'll explain the difference between the proposed action and the preferred alternative. So basically to start the process, an entity of some sort needs to come to the Federal agency or agencies with a proposed action - the project that they would like to build or implement.

00:24:42.090 --> 00:24:50.580

USBR - Jason Sutter: In this case, our proposed action was Alternative B, and the process of NEPA is to incorporate

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USBR - Jason Sutter: Information and develop alternatives, which is what we did with what resulted from the scoping process. In the scoping process, the public, other agencies, Tribes, and interested parties provided alternatives to our proposed

00:25:10.410 --> 00:25:18.420

USBR - Jason Sutter: Action, which in many cases decrease impacts to certain resources or uses.

00:25:19.500 --> 00:25:30.630

USBR - Jason Sutter: After consideration of those impacts, as we as the decision makers from the Bureau of Reclamation have done, they are, there is a

00:25:31.050 --> 00:25:45.720

USBR - Jason Sutter: Normal process to select a preferred alternative to put out in the Draft EIS, and in this case one of the improvements to reduce impacts was Alternative C, where there were, was to be

00:25:46.110 --> 00:26:00.750

USBR - Jason Sutter: Less impact in the riparian area by replacing less of the pipeline and lining it and therefore not requiring as much excavation and ground disturbance in that area.

00:26:01.290 --> 00:26:13.020

USBR - Jason Sutter: So for this project in particular, Alternative B was where we started out with, with a proposed action, that proposed action had replacement of two segments of the pipeline.

00:26:14.100 --> 00:26:24.630

USBR - Jason Sutter: After consideration of alternatives, we came up with an alternative that only replaced one segment of the pipeline and lined the other one.

00:26:25.200 --> 00:26:34.950

USBR - Jason Sutter: And that was that. And that results in less impacts to the riparian area. That is Alternative C, and that is currently our preferred alternative.

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USBR - Jason Sutter: So, uh, which alternative is Reclamation planning on building? That is still to be determined after this process, after we analyze and respond to public comments.

00:26:47.760 --> 00:27:08.730

USBR - Jason Sutter: We will be a that we will be revising the, the, he is and releasing a final he is and based on that analysis, the decision makers will select a final option or alternative and that's what we would be moving forward with. But at this time the preferred alternative is alternative see

00:27:10.710 --> 00:27:11.100

USBR - Jason Sutter: Thanks.

00:27:12.870 --> 00:27:23.130

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Jason for that response. I'll go ahead and put you back on mute. And we'll flip back to our Question-and-Answer instruction slide in case anybody needs to

00:27:23.580 --> 00:27:40.890

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: See those instructions again. So again, these instructions are up on the screen. But right now, we're just going through zoom web platform or zoom app participants, so please go ahead and click on that chat icon at the bottom of your zoom screen and send your question over to Amy Lewis.

00:27:42.750 --> 00:28:00.360

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And we do have our next question from participants, question 2. And so, that question is "Are there going to be effects on Endangered Species Act-listed species? There are bull trout on Icicle Creek." And I'm going to go ahead and unmute Jim Craig to respond to that question.

00:28:02.190 --> 00:28:05.460

USFWS - Jim Craig: Yes, thank you. Um, yeah, we have several species of

00:28:06.540 --> 00:28:07.170

USFWS - Jim Craig: Listed

00:28:08.220 --> 00:28:09.780

USFWS - Jim Craig: Fish species, including

00:28:11.310 --> 00:28:25.290

USFWS - Jim Craig: steelhead and bull trout. And there, if you're talking about effects to the construction of the intake, there could, there would likely be temporary disturbances when the area is going to be coffer=dammed off.

00:28:25.740 --> 00:28:33.840

USFWS - Jim Craig: However, we will be isolating that area and electroshocking to remove the fish as the copper damn is being constructed.

00:28:34.710 --> 00:28:50.040

USFWS - Jim Craig: So a lot of the work is going to be done in the dry and away from the stream, and that will minimize the effects to bull trout, steelhead, and the other native fish in the creek at the time. So we aim to minimize any disturbance as much as possible.

00:28:54.630 --> 00:29:02.010

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Jim for that response, and you'll go back on mute, and we'll continue to wait for more questions to come in.

00:29:45.000 --> 00:29:49.500

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Alright, we have our next question from participants. Question number 3.

00:29:49.980 --> 00:30:06.360

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And the question is, "What is the proposed time period for the anticipated 10 days of temporary water supply pumping identified in the proposed action and the preferred alternative?" And I'll go ahead and unmute Elizabeth Heether to help us respond to that question.

00:30:17.160 --> 00:30:23.490

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Let's see, Elizabeth, I think I've unmuted you on my end. You might have to unmute yourself on your end, try again.

00:30:25.260 --> 00:30:25.860

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: There we go.

00:30:26.400 --> 00:30:27.390

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Hey. Thanks, Amanda.

00:30:29.760 --> 00:30:38.220

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: The proposed time period for the 10 days of temporary water supply pumping identified in the preferred alternative is

00:30:39.360 --> 00:30:41.220

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Going to occur during July

00:30:42.600 --> 00:30:56.970

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: As part of setting up the temporary bypass water supply line to a downstream location on the pipeline. So there will be a coffer dam placed, and then that temporary bypass

00:30:58.170 --> 00:31:19.560

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Pipeline will be installed. And it's at that connection time of placing, of connecting the temporary bypass pipeline with the existing pipeline that delivers water to the Hatchery, that they will need to pump from the spilling basin to supplement the Hatchery so we don't interrupt production.

00:31:24.390 --> 00:31:26.520

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great, thanks. Elizabeth for that response.

00:31:27.840 --> 00:31:42.450

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And we'll go ahead and wait for more questions to come in. I don't see any currently up next. But again, if you have a question, please feel free to send that over to Amy Lewis using that chat feature located at the bottom of your screen.

00:32:01.260 --> 00:32:16.620

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Alright, and so we have our next question from participants. Question number 4. And that question is, "Is your project connected to the Trout Unlimited Boulder Field fish passage project?" And we'll go back to Elizabeth for this response.

00:32:20.070 --> 00:32:23.550

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: We are not formally connected with the Trout Unlimited

00:32:24.720 --> 00:32:36.630

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Project at the Boulder Field. However, by increasing passage as a result of this SWISP project, we will allow better access for all fish above the

00:32:37.530 --> 00:32:53.130

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Current existing low head diversion dam that, and they will be able to swim up and past the dam, and access the additional habitat that is being opened up by the Boulder Field project being directed by Trout Unlimited.

00:32:57.750 --> 00:33:05.250

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: All right, great. Thank you, Elizabeth, for that response. I'll go ahead and put you back on mute, and we can move on to our next question

00:33:07.680 --> 00:33:18.990

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: If we do have any. I don't see any currently lined up. But again, feel free to send over your questions. This is still the Q and A portion, we will get to the public comment portion after this Q and A portion.

00:33:21.570 --> 00:33:22.800

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And I'll go ahead and

00:33:23.820 --> 00:33:28.950

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: unmute Jason Sutter in case he wants to add anything to that last response.

00:33:31.350 --> 00:33:45.690

USBR - Jason Sutter: Thanks, Amanda. I just was going to add that the Boulder Field project as well as the rehab of the intake system, or the Hatchery, were conceived,

00:33:46.950 --> 00:33:57.210

USBR - Jason Sutter: Were thought of, and proposed and discussed, and even analyzed in the Programmatic EIS that Chelan County and the Washington Department of Ecology

00:33:57.990 --> 00:34:07.050

USBR - Jason Sutter: Put together, which is known as the Icicle Strategy. So I just wanted to, you know, say that this project that we're talking about today

00:34:07.470 --> 00:34:31.260

USBR - Jason Sutter: Is part of a larger strategy to improve water conservation and fish passage and movement in the Icicle Creek watershed. So in a way, these are all, they work together, they benefit each other. And this is just one more step to making those projects come to fruition.

00:34:34.380 --> 00:34:46.920

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Jason. And I'll go ahead and keep you unmuted for this next question that we have, question number 5. And that question is "What are the benefits of the proposed Federal action?"

00:34:50.640 --> 00:34:57.870

USBR - Jason Sutter: Sure. So rehabilitating, replacing, and modernizing the Hatchery surface water intake and delivery system

00:34:58.230 --> 00:35:09.570

USBR - Jason Sutter: Will increase access to additional habitat for ESA-listed fish in icicle Creek, as we were just mentioning, by improving upstream and downstream passage at the intake facility.

00:35:10.200 --> 00:35:21.270

USBR - Jason Sutter: The SWISP project would protect ESA-listed fish from being entrained or impinged at the surface water intake facility. Currently, the intake does not have

00:35:21.930 --> 00:35:35.550

USBR - Jason Sutter: screens that would prevent fish from entering the system. So by building new head works and having new screening, fish will no longer be entrained in the system.

00:35:36.060 --> 00:35:48.000

USBR - Jason Sutter: It also ensures the safe and efficient and reliable delivery of the Hatchery's full surface water right from Icicle Creek and allows the Hatchery to continue to raise and release spring chinook

00:35:49.620 --> 00:36:01.710

USBR - Jason Sutter: Into the future. The continued success of the Hatchery program provides for Tribal, sport, and commercial fisheries in Icicle Creek, the Columbia River, and the Pacific Ocean.

00:36:03.000 --> 00:36:03.390

USBR - Jason Sutter: Thanks.

00:36:07.080 --> 00:36:15.660

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Jason for that response. I'll go ahead and put you back on you, and we'll continue to wait for any more questions that we have.

00:36:16.470 --> 00:36:23.130

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: I will just briefly move over to the phone call-in instructions. I don't see anyone calling in over the phone today

00:36:23.700 --> 00:36:27.330

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: But if you do find that you have an issue with your computer microphone

00:36:27.900 --> 00:36:36.570

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Later on, you can feel free to call in using your phone or if you just want to now, I'll just briefly read over the instructions. So if you are calling in through your phone today

00:36:36.900 --> 00:36:48.780

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And you have a question, please just press star nine on your keypad to raise your hand to let staff know that you have a question. You will then be unmuted, and you can ask your question verbally.

00:36:49.500 --> 00:36:55.470

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And then we'll put you back on mute. And again, a Reclamation staff member will respond to your question, aloud.

00:36:57.480 --> 00:37:08.040

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: But again, I think for now, we, I only see zoom web app or zoom platform users. So we'll just keep going through the questions that we get via the chat feature.

00:37:09.540 --> 00:37:16.020

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And so we do have our next question via the chat feature. And so that is question 6.

00:37:16.890 --> 00:37:28.770

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And question 6 is "What are the means and methods proposed for the temporary water supply pumping intake (staging for implementation, implementation and operation, etc.)

00:37:29.190 --> 00:37:39.420

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: As to not adversely affect access and function of the Tribal spring chinook fisheries?" And I'll go ahead and unmute Elizabeth to get us started with that response.

00:37:44.430 --> 00:37:54.600

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Thanks, Amanda. So the temporary pumping location is located in the spillway. This is an established point of diversion for the fish Hatchery to take

00:37:55.860 --> 00:37:57.900

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Surface water when needed.

00:37:59.070 --> 00:38:23.550

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: So the plan is to utilize the existing pumping area within the spillway that is opposite of the Tribal fishing areas, and it would be to minimize further the impacts. The temporary pumping for phase 2, it will be between mid-April and mid-May.

00:38:24.690 --> 00:38:36.150

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: So it overlaps slightly with the Tribal fisheries' preparation windows for fishing, but the last several years, the fish have not arrived

00:38:36.930 --> 00:38:56.400

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Until late May, early June, so the plan with the proposed one-month outage where we will need that temporary water supply pumping is offset as much as possible to utilize the Hatchery's local water needs

00:38:57.540 --> 00:39:03.840

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: And to prevent as much overlap as possible with the Tribal fishing.

00:39:08.010 --> 00:39:14.850

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great, thank you, Elizabeth, for that response. I'll go ahead and also unmute Jim Craig in case he wants to supplement our response.

00:39:17.460 --> 00:39:18.690

USFWS - Jim Craig: Sure, and

00:39:19.800 --> 00:39:30.930

USFWS - Jim Craig: Look, like Elizabeth said, by and large, the timing of this temporary water supply pumping will not conflict with the Tribal fisheries.

00:39:32.250 --> 00:39:38.970

USFWS - Jim Craig: And even if the run comes in early, this is a small area that the pump screens will be located in.

00:39:39.630 --> 00:39:52.440

USFWS - Jim Craig: So there will be a slight constraint potentially on the area, the total area fishing, but it's a large area to fish. And so the effects are both temporarily and spatially minimized to the greatest degree possible. Thank you.

00:39:55.980 --> 00:39:58.590

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Thank you, Jim and Elizabeth for those responses.

00:40:07.500 --> 00:40:19.170

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: All right, and so we have question 7 from participants and that question is "How will the fish screens work when the creek is full of ice? Will they need to be removed?"

00:40:20.460 --> 00:40:23.910

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And I'll go ahead and unmute Jason to start us off with our response.

00:40:26.340 --> 00:40:37.380

USBR - Jason Sutter: Yeah, thank you. That's very good question. Um, currently the plan right now is that the screens can be removed temporarily and

00:40:37.950 --> 00:40:47.520

USBR - Jason Sutter: If icing conditions get to where that is necessary, that is what would happen, the screens would be removed

00:40:48.120 --> 00:41:05.580

USBR - Jason Sutter: For the least amount of time where they could be safely lifted as well as put back into place. if the screens are removed, that means that water, unscreened water, would get into the intake system and would be delivered to the Hatchery.

00:41:06.690 --> 00:41:21.390

USBR - Jason Sutter: As many of you may know, or not know, currently when fish do get entrained in the, into the intake and delivery system, there, there is an area right before the production facilities on the Hatchery grounds. That's

00:41:22.380 --> 00:41:38.040

USBR - Jason Sutter: Called the sand-settling basin. It's a large pool that allows sediment to settle out and have cleaner water, I should say less sediment-filled water, go into the Hatchery facilities. Current

00:41:38.640 --> 00:41:56.100

USBR - Jason Sutter: Procedures are to periodically check that pool for the presence of any fish, and listed, fish that may be in there, and then those fish are counted, identified, removed, and replaced back in icicle Creek.

00:41:57.270 --> 00:42:11.880

USBR - Jason Sutter: If the screens need to be removed for ice purposes, then that same process would take place. We are going through as a consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service

00:42:12.570 --> 00:42:36.540

USBR - Jason Sutter: And NMFS depending on the species involved, and in our consultation that is part of the, the, the assist that we are working on. So this is something that we are coordinating with the regulatory agencies, and we will move forward with in a very similar method to how fish are now

00:42:37.770 --> 00:42:41.820

USBR - Jason Sutter: being removed from the system should they get entrained.

00:42:43.440 --> 00:42:47.130

USBR - Jason Sutter: I'll let Jim go a little further and add some more information.

00:42:51.090 --> 00:42:52.200

USFWS - Jim Craig: Sure. Thanks, Jason.

00:42:53.250 --> 00:43:00.720

USFWS - Jim Craig: Yeah, as Jason indicated, currently it's an unscreened diversion and has been unscreened diversion since construction of the Hatchery. So we routinely,

00:43:01.590 --> 00:43:14.580

USFWS - Jim Craig: We have to lower the pool level in that sand-settling basin and we sign up, count, and release the fish down in the spillway assuming that they were migrating downstream. So we allow them to continue their migration downstream.

00:43:16.170 --> 00:43:16.980

USFWS - Jim Craig: It is,

00:43:18.180 --> 00:43:20.880

USFWS - Jim Craig: It takes a lot of time and effort to do that.

00:43:22.290 --> 00:43:30.030

USFWS - Jim Craig: We see very little mortality. The fish all appear to be a good health, ones that are entrained and, you know, obviously, this new project will preclude

00:43:30.600 --> 00:43:44.370

USFWS - Jim Craig: entrainment for the vast majority of the year. The icing only occurs in some years. It's not every year but we do have a means in the future to get them out if we do have to pull those screens in anticipation of those really cold icing events.

00:43:49.380 --> 00:44:09.030

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Right. Thank you, Jim and Jason, for those responses and we'll go ahead and move on to our next question, which is question 8. And so question 8 is "Will the project affect access to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area?" And I'll go ahead and unmute Elizabeth for that response.

00:44:15.150 --> 00:44:32.670

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Sure. Um, so, because of the location of the intake access area, it's about a mile and a quarter, um, well, it's about a mile from the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area parking lot and trailhead.

00:44:33.720 --> 00:44:55.950

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: The traffic will be up, will need to pass by the intake location and will utilize a turnaround at the Alpine Lakes

Wilderness and US Forest Service kiosks that are just up the road from the trailhead parking lot.

00:44:56.460 --> 00:45:03.990

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: The vehicles will turn around at that spot. There will be traffic control. So there'll probably be flaggers, there'll be signage

00:45:05.070 --> 00:45:15.150

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: At that location to facilitate the U-turns by the trucks. And they will then drive back down Icicle Creek road and back into the intake access area.

00:45:16.680 --> 00:45:23.520

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: So there will be a disruption to parking in the vicinity of the trailhead

00:45:24.780 --> 00:45:29.640

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: So that the large construction vehicles can turn around.

00:45:30.660 --> 00:45:33.570

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: The, as far as parking

00:45:34.770 --> 00:45:54.090

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Within the parking existing parking lot, there will be no disruption there. We will not allow the contractor or any of the subcontractors to park, turn around, or otherwise use that parking lot. So everything will be done on Icicle Creek road. And we're working with,

00:45:55.200 --> 00:46:11.460

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: The contractor will secure their permits from Chelan County for use of Icicle Creek road, and Reclamation is procuring a road use permit from the Forest Service for use of the turnaround at the kiosk location. So that is,

00:46:13.200 --> 00:46:24.690

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Will be, the main impact is loss of some parking spaces, there will be some traffic delays encountered as a result of those large vehicles turning around as well.

00:46:28.830 --> 00:46:34.050

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Elizabeth, for that response. I'll go ahead and put you back on mute now.

00:46:34.800 --> 00:46:40.590

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And so I don't see any additional questions coming in via the zoom chat feature.

00:46:40.980 --> 00:46:49.050

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So at this time we're going to go ahead and move on to our public comment portion of the meeting in order to allow everyone who wants to comment today

00:46:49.410 --> 00:46:58.800

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: An opportunity to offer their verbal comment. If we do have time, we can come back to any other questions that we get via the zoom chat feature.

00:46:59.640 --> 00:47:10.260

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: But for now I'll move on to my next slide. So we're going to officially start the public comment portion of the meeting to receive comments related to the Draft EIS.

00:47:10.680 --> 00:47:16.170

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Let's see. It's about 10:45am pacific time, so we're going to go ahead and get started.

00:47:16.920 --> 00:47:23.850

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Again, this public comment portion of the meeting, along with your comments, is being recorded as part of the official record.

00:47:24.540 --> 00:47:35.790

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: As a reminder, your camera and mic control settings are restricted during this time, so you will only be able to talk if and when you are unmuted. So please remember to speak once prompted

00:47:37.530 --> 00:47:45.000

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: As you can see on the screen, I'm now going to walk everyone through the order in which we will accept public comments from participants today.

00:47:45.810 --> 00:47:54.120

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: First, we will call on participants who requested to offer a comment when they pre-registered using the registration link for today's meeting.

00:47:55.020 --> 00:48:04.830

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: After allowing these participants to offer their comments, we will then open the public comment portion to anyone who is on the meeting today who would like to offer a verbal comments.

00:48:05.520 --> 00:48:17.820

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: We will first again go through participants who request to comment using the zoom web platform or zoom app. And then, if we do get any phone callers, we will move on to those phone callers who would like to offer a comment.

00:48:22.170 --> 00:48:31.230

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: As you can see again on the slide, I'm now going to read through the instructions for those participants who indicated they wanted to offer a comment when they pre-registered.

00:48:31.650 --> 00:48:41.130

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: I will note that these instructions are very similar to the ones that I'll go through when we open it up to everyone on the public meeting. But for now, we'll just go through

00:48:41.700 --> 00:48:47.220

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Our list of people that we have on our list of people who have pre-registered who said they wanted to offer a comment.

00:48:47.790 --> 00:48:55.860

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So we do have this list, and it's organized in the order that people registered for the meeting. We do only have one commenter on this list today.

00:48:56.460 --> 00:49:03.090

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So when it is their turn to comment, I will read their name aloud from the list and display their name on the next screen.

00:49:03.960 --> 00:49:12.600

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: When you hear your name called out, please use the raise hand feature so that we know you are available and ready, ready to offer your comment today.

00:49:13.500 --> 00:49:23.250

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: You can access the raise hand feature by going to the participants list and then selecting the raise hand feature at the bottom of the participants list.

00:49:24.240 --> 00:49:33.420

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And you can access your participants list at the bottom of your zoom screen. Again, if you wave your mouse back and forth across the bottom of your zoom screen

00:49:33.840 --> 00:49:43.470

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: The participants list icon should appear. Again, you may need to exit out of your full screen zoom view in order to see the participant list icon.

00:49:44.040 --> 00:49:53.100

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Or if you are calling in through the phone today, again, please press star nine to access the raise hand feature, so that we know you are ready to offer your comments.

00:49:54.150 --> 00:49:59.640

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So once you have raised your hand, you will then be unmuted so that you can provide your verbal comment.

00:50:00.330 --> 00:50:13.110

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: You may be double muted, and if that is the case, we will just prompt you to unmute yourself on your end, so that we can hear you. And please do spell out your first and last name before providing your comment for the record.

00:50:14.460 --> 00:50:24.510

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: As I said at the beginning of the presentation today, comments will be time-limited today. So we do ask that you keep your comments generally limited to about five minutes.

00:50:25.140 --> 00:50:35.880

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And you will receive a warning to let you know when you reach this five minutes, and so we just ask that you be mindful and respectful, and wrap up your comment at the end of that five minutes

00:50:36.300 --> 00:50:47.580

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: In order to allow others the opportunity to offer their comment today as well. As I said, after you have provided your comment, we will put you back on mute and then move on to our next commenter.

00:50:48.420 --> 00:50:56.340

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Once we have gone through, again, everyone on our pre-registered list of commenters, we will open up the meeting to anyone who would like to offer a comment.

00:50:56.910 --> 00:51:07.350

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And lastly, if you do not feel that you are able to complete your comment within the allotted time frame, the Bureau of Reclamation strongly encourages you to submit the remainder of your comment in writing.

00:51:08.160 --> 00:51:15.240

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So I'm now going to turn it over to Amy Lewis, who is going to be our moderator for the public comment portion of the meeting today.

00:51:23.220 --> 00:51:44.730

EMPSi - Amy Lewis: Okay. Good morning, everybody. Thanks again for joining us for the public meeting. And our first commenter we have on the list is David Van Cleve. So David, if you are on the line here and would like to offer a comment, please access that raise hand feature

00:51:46.110 --> 00:51:51.360

EMPSi - Amy Lewis: That can be found at the bottom of your zoom screen. And click on the participants list.

00:51:53.160 --> 00:51:57.450

EMPSi - Amy Lewis: And you should see that raise hand feature. David Van Cleve.

00:52:12.750 --> 00:52:16.830

EMPSi - Amy Lewis: Okay, it looks like David is not on the

00:52:17.340 --> 00:52:34.680

EMPSi - Amy Lewis: Line or available to provide comment. So what we're going to do as Amanda suggested earlier, is we're going to open up the meeting now, for anyone else, any of the other participants, that would like to provide a public comment. So if you would like to provide a comment,

00:52:36.030 --> 00:52:43.500

EMPSi - Amy Lewis: As we've said, access that raise hand feature that you can find in the participants list at the bottom of your zoom screen.

00:52:44.670 --> 00:52:57.900

EMPSi - Amy Lewis: And raise your hand to let us know that you'd like to provide a comment. We'll call on you in the order that you raise your hand. So I'll pause here a few minutes to see if anybody would like to provide a comment.

00:53:31.530 --> 00:53:47.370

EMPSi - Amy Lewis: Again, if you are on the meeting today and would like to offer a comment, we are currently open. Anybody that would like to provide a comment can do so by raising your hand. And you can do that in the zoom,

00:53:49.800 --> 00:54:01.380

EMPSi - Amy Lewis: Let's see, the zoom toolbar, at the bottom of your screen by hovering your cursor and clicking on the participant list and then accessing that raise hand feature that way.

00:54:39.150 --> 00:54:44.160

EMPSi - Amy Lewis: Okay, so we're not seeing anyone that would like to offer a public comment.

00:54:44.520 --> 00:54:56.040

EMPSi - Amy Lewis: So at this time, I'm going to pass it back over to Amanda, and we are going to again, open up the discussion for question and answers as we have been doing so far.

00:54:56.520 --> 00:55:10.170

EMPSi - Amy Lewis: And if at any point someone decides that they would like to offer a comment, please just raise your hand, and we can switch back over to the public comment session and let you provide your comment. So Amanda.

00:55:11.640 --> 00:55:12.870

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great, thank you, Amy.

00:55:14.280 --> 00:55:20.430

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And I'll flip back to our Question-and-Answer instructions in case anybody needs a refresher.

00:55:20.850 --> 00:55:33.990

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Again, if you're using the zoom web platform or zoom app, go ahead and click on that chat icon at the bottom of your zoom screen. You may need to wave your mouse around at the bottom in order for that chat icon to pop up.

00:55:34.710 --> 00:55:42.120

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Once it does, please go ahead and send any questions you have over to Amy Lewis, and we'll get those answered for you.

00:55:44.100 --> 00:56:01.560

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And let's see, we do have our next question that has been submitted. And so that is question number 9. And that question is "What are the major components of the proposed intake facilities?" And I'll go ahead and go back to Jason to respond to that one.

00:56:04.380 --> 00:56:16.620

USBR - Jason Sutter: Okay thanks, Amanda. Um, could you please go to slide number 12, and that will provide a nice visual example of those features of the intake facility.

00:56:23.400 --> 00:56:33.540

USBR - Jason Sutter: So generally, the intake facility, which you can see here on the slide that's up here, this is a conceptual drawing of the proposed

00:56:34.440 --> 00:56:45.360

USBR - Jason Sutter: Intake facility, modernization, and rehabilitation. You'll notice that starting from the entrance into the area, that intake access road off of the

00:56:45.750 --> 00:56:57.690

USBR - Jason Sutter: Off of icicle Creek will be widened, extended so that vehicles can get down into the area of the actual intake structure, which will be

00:56:58.350 --> 00:57:05.880

USBR - Jason Sutter: Rebuilt in an area that currently is where the intake channel is. You'll notice that there's an area there,

00:57:06.600 --> 00:57:16.200

USBR - Jason Sutter: That is labeled the intake O and M area. That'll be a raised area above the creek that will be partially gravel surfaced as well as

00:57:16.770 --> 00:57:24.810

USBR - Jason Sutter: Concrete-covered in certain areas, where there will be a larger area for staff from the Hatchery to be able to operate and

00:57:25.260 --> 00:57:34.230

USBR - Jason Sutter: The equipment and get in there at, during any kind of conditions, and not be as constrained as the current situation is.

00:57:34.680 --> 00:57:51.870

USBR - Jason Sutter: You'll notice that intake operation area, which is in the, on that intake structure, is where the fish screens will be placed. And the fish screens will be aligned parallel to the flow of the river, and that will allow the

00:57:53.040 --> 00:58:13.320

USBR - Jason Sutter: Proper sweeping velocities, so that fish do not get impinged on the screens, and that, and sediment and other things will flow past. There is a, there will be a covered canopy with the control panel to operate all of the equipment there, be it the gates that open the intake

00:58:14.790 --> 00:58:18.360

USBR - Jason Sutter: Pipeline or raising and lowering those

00:58:19.410 --> 00:58:32.280

USBR - Jason Sutter: Fish screens. Once the water enters into the, past the screens, it will go into the intake pipeline, which you can see as a dotted line. That will be underneath.

00:58:32.940 --> 00:58:39.360

USBR - Jason Sutter: But it will be laid within the existing intake channel, but that will be covered. And that will go to where,

00:58:39.690 --> 00:58:58.200

USBR - Jason Sutter: There's an area that we are calling the PISMA, or the pipeline intake and sediment management area. There'll be a series of valves as well as a bit, the ability to, enter into that pipeline, where water can be temporarily shifted from the Hatchery.

00:58:59.400 --> 00:59:04.560

USBR - Jason Sutter: It can be closed off, and the water can be, the outlet

00:59:05.280 --> 00:59:19.080

USBR - Jason Sutter: Valve could be opened, and any sediment that might have accumulated in the intake facility can be flushed out

through that system into an outlet channel that you see labeled on the map. I'm sorry, the drawing.

00:59:19.680 --> 00:59:29.580

USBR - Jason Sutter: Where the sediment will be washed out and returned into Icicle Creek. Some other major components that you'll see obviously is the roughened channel.

00:59:29.850 --> 00:59:42.750

USBR - Jason Sutter: The roughened channel has been designed to meet current criteria. It will, it has been, extended upstream some to provide a better slope for the fish to be able to pass over at all

00:59:43.230 --> 00:59:50.190

USBR - Jason Sutter: water flow conditions. When water is at its lowest point, there is a special feature that we've called the low

00:59:50.550 --> 00:59:59.370

USBR - Jason Sutter: Flow boulder weir fish way, where water will be directed in there, and the velocities through that area will allow fish to

01:00:00.000 --> 01:00:18.780

USBR - Jason Sutter: Be able to move up and down through that area. Once flows are higher, and they start overtopping the, they start, basically filling in the whole roughened channel, you'll notice that there are a series of boulders that will be strategically placed to provide areas where fish can

01:00:20.520 --> 01:00:29.850

USBR - Jason Sutter: Basically wait a bit, or rest some, before they make any additional movements upstream, as well as them being able to pass through their downstream.

01:00:30.150 --> 01:00:51.810

USBR - Jason Sutter: So basically, the major components are that access road, the intake structure with the gates, as well as the fish screens, the intake pipeline, the pipeline intake and sediment management area, the roughened channel, which has both the low flow boulder weir fish way, and that extended

01:00:53.250 --> 01:00:59.700

USBR - Jason Sutter: Ramp, so that during higher flows, fish can be able to go up or down and pass over this feature.

01:01:04.440 --> 01:01:13.170

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Jason, for that response. I'll go ahead and put you back on mute and flip back over to our Question-and-Answer instruction slide.

01:01:21.990 --> 01:01:34.200

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: All right, and then we'll move on to our next question that we've received, and that is question number 10, which is "Who are the cooperating agencies?" And I'll go ahead and unmute Elizabeth to respond to that.

01:01:37.560 --> 01:01:48.480

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Thank you Amanda. Um so the cooperating agencies for the SWISP project are the US Fish and Wildlife and the US Army Corps of Engineers. We

01:01:49.170 --> 01:02:00.660

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: As the Federal lead, we sent requests for participation as cooperating agencies to Federal, state, and local agencies and our Native American Tribes.

01:02:01.170 --> 01:02:13.950

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: And the US Fish and Wildlife and the US Army Corps of Engineers are the ones who accepted that cooperating agency status with Reclamation. That's not to say we haven't included a lot of other

01:02:14.970 --> 01:02:20.040

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Agencies in the process. We have worked very closely and have

01:02:21.390 --> 01:02:39.600

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Several participating agencies that have contributed to the success of our process today. And those include Chelan County, The Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife Department, NOAA Fisheries, Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the Department of Ecology,

01:02:41.010 --> 01:02:49.710

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Yakama Nation Fisheries. And we have a lot of other interested parties,

01:02:50.670 --> 01:03:07.890

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: A lot of those come by the way of the Icicle work group with the Department of Ecology and Chelan County, having done the Icicle Strategy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. So we have

01:03:08.880 --> 01:03:17.970

USBR - Elizabeth Heether: Worked with a lot of groups, and we will continue to do so throughout this process. But the US Fish and Wildlife and the Army Corps of Engineers are cooperating agencies.

01:03:21.930 --> 01:03:30.630

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Elizabeth, for that response. And we'll continue to wait for any additional questions that we receive. We do have about

01:03:31.230 --> 01:03:43.440

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: 25 minutes left on the meeting. So we'll continue to take questions or again, if anybody would like to comment, please access that raise hand feature and we'll accept your verbal public comment today.

01:03:44.310 --> 01:03:56.490

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: We do have one last slide at the end of this presentation, just kind of a closing remarks slide, that goes back through, again, just the commenting information, and I believe the website information.

01:03:57.150 --> 01:04:04.950

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: But until we hit that 11:30am pacific time mark, we'll just continue to accept questions or comments. Thanks everyone.

01:06:07.410 --> 01:06:21.090

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Alright, we have our next question from participants and that is question number 11. And the question is, "How will you consider comments from the public?" And I'll go ahead and unmute Jason to get us started with this response.

01:06:23.310 --> 01:06:28.980

USBR - Jason Sutter: Yeah, thank you. Um, so Reclamation is committed to collecting comments from the public and interested parties.

01:06:29.400 --> 01:06:40.500

USBR - Jason Sutter: The comments that we received during the public scoping period were summarized in that scoping report, as I mentioned earlier in the presentation. And that was made available to the public

01:06:41.580 --> 01:06:49.920

USBR - Jason Sutter: Before the Draft EIS was released. The Reclamation team reviewed and considered every comment submitted and addressed them as appropriate.

01:06:50.550 --> 01:06:57.600

USBR - Jason Sutter: For the Draft EIS, Reclamation will consider and evaluate all comments that are received. Substantive comments

01:06:58.170 --> 01:07:10.530

USBR - Jason Sutter: Received will be addressed in the Final EIS, which is to be completed in 2021. The comments submitted will be available for public review and may be published as part of the final SWISP project.

01:07:11.400 --> 01:07:26.670

USBR - Jason Sutter: You can provide your comments here today, or there are various other ways to provide those comments. People can visit our virtual public meeting room, where there is a location for people to answer,

01:07:27.660 --> 01:07:39.900

USBR - Jason Sutter: To ask, to provide comments, as well as ask questions. Comments can be submitted via email. Comments can be submitted via US mail.

01:07:40.320 --> 01:07:51.450

USBR - Jason Sutter: There is also a phone number on our SWISP project website, as well as the virtual public meeting, where questions can be asked or requests can be made.

01:07:52.260 --> 01:08:02.250

USBR - Jason Sutter: Please do that at, you know, your convenience. I do want to also stress that the virtual public meeting is available 24 hours a day for the entire 45-day period.

01:08:03.750 --> 01:08:19.050

USBR - Jason Sutter: So there are many different ways to provide comments. As was mentioned before, all substantive comments will be addressed, there will be a record of that and, if need be, the Final EIS will be modified

01:08:19.860 --> 01:08:35.730

USBR - Jason Sutter: To address those questions or comments. And so as long as it's a comment that has to do with the analysis or seeks for clarification or has something to do with

01:08:36.960 --> 01:08:46.140

USBR - Jason Sutter: A, any regulatory and/or process question, that, those are substantive. Votes for or against the project

01:08:46.500 --> 01:09:05.580

USBR - Jason Sutter: Are welcome, but they aren't, those wouldn't be considered anything that would help move the, the FEIS forward. So I do encourage everyone to participate in this process if you feel like it, and know that your comments will be taken seriously and addressed as appropriate. Thanks.

01:09:08.970 --> 01:09:20.880

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Jason, for that response. I don't see any additional questions coming in via the chat feature. So we're going to go ahead and move to that closing remarks slides that I referenced earlier.

01:09:21.240 --> 01:09:27.450

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: We're then just going to stay on this slide until, again as I said, 11:30am pacific time.

01:09:28.020 --> 01:09:43.320

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: We will continue to take any questions or comments you have, but we just wanted to leave this information up for everyone so that they can write it down if needed. I'll go ahead and unmute Jason again. Jason, if you want to lead us through any part of this slide.

01:09:45.660 --> 01:09:51.510

USBR - Jason Sutter: Sure. Well, I'll probably say this again, but I do appreciate everyone's time and attention today.

01:09:53.040 --> 01:10:04.350

USBR - Jason Sutter: As I mentioned several times during the presentation, the 45-day public comment period will end on January 4, 2021. So all comments

01:10:04.980 --> 01:10:12.750

USBR - Jason Sutter: Will be accepted up to that time. As I was just mentioning, there's various ways to find out how to comment.

01:10:13.650 --> 01:10:23.610

USBR - Jason Sutter: The primary ways to access those methods would be to visit our Bureau of Reclamation project website. You can see the web address on the screen.

01:10:24.210 --> 01:10:36.660

USBR - Jason Sutter: Once you reach the homepage, there are various other pages to find information, submit your comment, and also access some frequently asked questions

01:10:37.140 --> 01:10:52.020

USBR - Jason Sutter: Should you be curious about more details. That also is a location where you can download the Draft EIS as well as any of the supporting resource reports. Those are available on the Draft EIS page.

01:10:52.830 --> 01:11:02.550

USBR - Jason Sutter: Another way to find out information is through the virtual meeting room. As I mentioned before, the virtual meeting room is available 24 hours a day, as is the SWISP

01:11:03.000 --> 01:11:13.560

USBR - Jason Sutter: Project website. The virtual meeting room allows participants to find out more information, download maps, download the Draft EIS,

01:11:15.480 --> 01:11:26.100

USBR - Jason Sutter: And the frequently asked questions. Actually, there's a feature to ask additional questions, which our team will answer promptly.

01:11:26.790 --> 01:11:31.890

USBR - Jason Sutter: We are striving to get answers to those within a few days and those will be posted

01:11:32.460 --> 01:11:46.170

USBR - Jason Sutter: On the site. There is also the ability to sign up for our mailing list to find out more information about the project and be informed as we move forward, as well as an area for you to submit your comments

01:11:47.520 --> 01:11:48.780

USBR - Jason Sutter: In a, in a written form.

01:11:50.010 --> 01:11:55.860

USBR - Jason Sutter: Also on that website are all of these addresses and all of the ways that you can remain involved.

01:11:57.780 --> 01:12:19.140

USBR - Jason Sutter: Also on the screen, you'll see that we have the project email if you prefer to submit your comments that way. That is also another venue. I asked that if you do provide your comments via email, please put DEIS public comments in the subject line.

01:12:20.310 --> 01:12:29.460

USBR - Jason Sutter: We also, as I mentioned, there is an address and all of, on these websites, where if you prefer, you can send your written comments via mail.

01:12:30.120 --> 01:12:39.360

USBR - Jason Sutter: And finally, as I also mentioned, there is a phone number at the bottom of all of these websites where you can get a hold of myself

01:12:39.720 --> 01:12:49.770

USBR - Jason Sutter: And leave a message, as well as reach out to David Child, the project manager, should you have any questions that might involve his expertise.

01:12:50.580 --> 01:13:04.560

USBR - Jason Sutter: And, but regardless, we will make sure that the staff with the appropriate expertise addresses your questions. So we, I do also want to let everyone know that

01:13:05.370 --> 01:13:17.550

USBR - Jason Sutter: Today's presentation will be posted on our SWISP project website. And you'll also be able to find any other updates on the project on that, on the website moving forward.

01:13:20.190 --> 01:13:32.850

USBR - Jason Sutter: So once again, I, we do still have 15 minutes. I believe will stay on the line here should anyone want to ask any other questions and/or provide comment in our closing moments here.

01:13:33.630 --> 01:13:42.810

USBR - Jason Sutter: We still have some time to do that. So I'll turn it back over to Amanda, and we'll be waiting on the line. Thanks.

01:13:45.450 --> 01:13:54.450

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Jason, for leading us through that last slide. As Jason said, we'll continue to remain on the line. And it is currently 11:15

01:13:56.460 --> 01:14:01.290

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Pacific time. So we'll wait around for the next 15 minutes or so. Thanks everyone.

01:25:46.950 --> 01:25:57.480

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Alright, we only have a few minutes left, so I'm going to turn it back over to Jason just quickly one more time to go over some last closing remarks, and then we'll shut the meeting down. Thanks everyone.

01:26:02.490 --> 01:26:07.320

USBR - Jason Sutter: Thank you, Amanda. So we've reached the end of our question and answer/public comment.

01:26:08.220 --> 01:26:14.910

USBR - Jason Sutter: video teleconference for the SWISP Draft EIS. And I do want to thank everyone for your time and attention today.

01:26:15.450 --> 01:26:24.780

USBR - Jason Sutter: As I said before, we will be posting today's presentation on the SWISP project website, and you'll be able to find updates on the project on the website moving forward.

01:26:25.350 --> 01:26:39.930

USBR - Jason Sutter: We hope you found this video teleconference useful. I also encourage you to visit the virtual meeting room website for more detailed information. Once again, we appreciate you taking the time to join us today, and we look forward to receiving your input. Thank you.