

# **SKAGIT RIVER GI FEASIBILITY LEVEL**

## **1. LOCATION**

- a. Principle cities and towns are Mount Vernon, Burlington, Sedro Woolley, Conway, Clearlake and LaConner. County Population is 100,000.
- b. 5 Rivers, Baker, Skagit, Cascade, Suiattle and Sauk. The system is part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers upstream of Sedro Woolley.
- c. There are 5 dams total, 2 on the Baker River, Upper and Lower Baker Dams and 3 on the Skagit, Gorge, Diablo and Ross. There is flood storage on both of the upper most dams. 74k acre-feet at Baker and 120k acre-feet at Ross. 40% of the flows are regulated and 60% are unregulated. (Cascade, Suiattle and Sauk Rivers)
- d. The basin extends into Canada 30 miles.
- e. It drains 3,200 square miles.
- f. Flood inundation is 100 square miles below Sedro Woolley during a 100-year event.

## **2. STATUS**

- a. Completed Stage 1. Alternatives to 10%.
- b. Completed Alternative Analysis.
- c. Starting Stage 2 with 2 alternatives.

## **3. FUTURE MILESTONES**

- a. Site visit with Chief Planning HQ and Division 29 August.
- b. Complete PMP for Stage 2 in September.

- c. Division IPR is scheduled in September.
- d. Executive Committee Meeting 11 October.
- e. Our target is WRDA 2004 Authorization.

#### **4. UPPER BAKER FLOOD STORAGE (brief Mike White this Friday)**

##### **a. HIGHLIGHTS**

- i. 25-year FERC License will be renewed 2006.
- ii. 20-year compensation agreement with Dam owner expired last year. Tri-party agreement with PSE, BPA and the Corps.
- iii. BPA offered to continue participation in the compensation if the Corps studied alternative funding.

##### **b. FERC RELICENSING**

- i. Seattle staff is actively supporting the continuation of flood storage. The interim agreement is thru October 2003. This activity includes negotiation and a Biological Assessment.
- ii. Seattle staff is actively supporting the inclusion of flood storage in the new FERC license.
- iii. Expenses for these 2 activities amount to an estimated \$300,000 over the next 5 years.

##### **c. ISSUES**

- i. We have a limited amount of O&M funds to support this process.

##### **d. FUTURE MILESTONES**

- i. Renegotiate the contract and prepare a Biological assessment again in 2003.
- ii. Take an active role in the license process.

##### **e. RISK**

- i. BPA could pull out of the flood storage compensation. The Corps does not have funds.
- ii. FERC License could exclude flood storage.