



May 25, 2010

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St. N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, (FERC Project No. 2545) License Article 418 Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan

Dear Secretary Bose:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2545. Article 418 of the License requires Avista to develop and implement a Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan.

The enclosed Spokane River Interpretation and Education (Plan) was developed in accordance with Article 418. The intent of the Plan is to meet License requirements, facilitate a Project-wide approach to interpretation and education, and provide FERC, Avista, and its stakeholders with one primary point-of-reference for Project related interpretation and education measures.

The FERC License requires Avista to consult with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Washington State Historic Preservation Office, during the development of the enclosed Plan. Though not required by the License, Avista also requested comments from the Post Falls Parks and Recreation Department, Kootenai County Parks and Waterways, and the U.S. Forest Service for comments on the Plan.

With this, Avista is submitting the enclosed Plan to FERC for approval. Upon FERC's approval Avista will begin implementing the Plan as appropriate. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss the Plan. I can be reached at (509) 495-4998.

Sincerely,

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosure

cc: Allyson Brooks, Washington State Historic Preservation Office
Tom Ernsberger, Washington State Parks and Recreation
Janet Gallimore, Idaho State Historical Society
Chris Guidotti, Riverside State Park Ranger Station
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Kent Wellner, U.S. Forest Service
Nick Snyder, Kootenai County Parks and Waterways
Dave Fair, Post Falls Parks and Recreation
Brian White, U.S. Bureau of Land Management
David White, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Rob Whitlam, Washington State Historic Preservation Office

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the **Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan** on the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Washington State Historic Preservation Office in compliance with Ordering Paragraph J of the Spokane River Project FERC License (P-2545).

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Dated this 25 day of May, 2010

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AVISTA CORPORATION

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION PLAN

LICENSE ARTICLE 418

Spokane River Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 2545

Prepared by:

REC Resources

May 25, 2010

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Introduction

Plan Purpose

This plan provides guidance to Avista Utilities (Avista) and other land managers on interpretation and education (I&E) development related to Avista's Spokane River Hydroelectric Project. The Spokane River Hydroelectric Project (Project) consists of five hydroelectric developments (HEDs)—the Post Falls HED in Idaho and the Upper Falls, Monroe Street, Nine Mile, and Long Lake HEDs in Washington. The Project is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as Project Number 2545.

A primary objective of this Interpretation and Education Plan (Plan) is to provide I&E recommendations that when implemented, will increase the public's understanding and appreciation of natural and historical resources, enhance their experiences, inform them of recreation opportunities, and increase their safety and enjoyment. In many cases, the Plan's measures will also help conserve and protect fishery and wildlife resources, as well as historic properties, by educating the public and increasing their awareness of these resources.



The FERC license for the Project (License), issued to Avista on June 18, 2009, contains several provisions related to I&E (*Appendix A*):

- **Article 418** requires this Plan and specifies a number of themes.
- **Article 408** requires an education and outreach plan related to the Spokane River rainbow trout fishery, and **Article 409** requires an education and outreach program related to the Coeur d'Alene Lake trout fishery.
- **Article 410** and **Appendix D, Condition 7** require education programs related to invasive aquatic weeds for non-tribal waters and Reservation waters, respectively, on the Coeur d'Alene Lake system. **Appendix B, Condition 5.3(E)** suggests including education measures related to invasive aquatic weeds as part of a Lake Spokane aquatic weed management program.

This Plan includes information about all I&E activities required by the License. Combining the various I&E elements in one planning document facilitates a comprehensive, systematic approach and provides FERC, Avista and its stakeholders with one primary point-of-reference for I&E activities. Education and outreach specifically related to fisheries (License Articles 408 and 409) and aquatic weed management (License Article 410 and Appendices B and D) are referenced in this Plan, but are included elsewhere as components in other, separate FERC submittals.

This Plan is the first phase of I&E development and is intended to provide sufficient detail to guide the later creation of I&E messages and on-the-ground implementation. Many measures will be implemented as recreation facilities are developed and/or enhanced in accordance

with the Project's Recreation Plan. A number of I&E measures, which were designed after issuance of the License and in accordance with development of this Plan, have already been implemented.

Interpretation and Education

Although similar, within the context of this Plan, interpretation and education are slightly different concepts with distinct purposes.

Interpretation creates a greater understanding and appreciation of specific resources or concepts and adds value to the visitor's experience. Interpretation is not merely information, but rather the vehicle to stimulate thought and reflection about our surroundings and our relationship to them. To be most effective, interpretation speaks in terms that touch the visitor's personal experience, relating new ideas in meaningful ways. At its best, it sparks interest and the desire to learn more.

*"Interpretation is information based on revelation... an art that tells a story."
— Freeman Tilden*

Education on the other hand, involves communicating information to the public that is necessary for their safe and responsible enjoyment of the area or the protection of resources. This might include for example, information on boating safety, the location of recreation facilities and opportunities, or how to minimize negative impacts on fish or wildlife. Educational messages are clear, concise and targeted. Often they provide information that pertains to broad geographic areas or behaviors; sometimes they focus on specific sites, resources or concerns.

Project Area Description

This plan guides I&E development within a geographic boundary established for the Project by FERC. The Project boundary surrounds the lands and waterbodies that are directly related to operation of the Project's five hydroelectric developments.

Generally, the Project boundary follows the normal high-water line around impoundments created or modified by operation of the dams. In Idaho, the Project boundary follows the Spokane River upstream from Post Falls Dam to Coeur d'Alene Lake, where it encompasses that waterbody, and also follows the shorelines of its tributaries (Coeur d'Alene River, St. Joe River, and St. Maries River) upstream to points where the dam no longer influences water height. In Washington, the boundary associated with the Upper Falls and Monroe Street Dams follows the Spokane River's shoreline upstream through downtown Spokane, and at Nine Mile and Long Lake Dams it includes Nine Mile Reservoir and Lake Spokane.

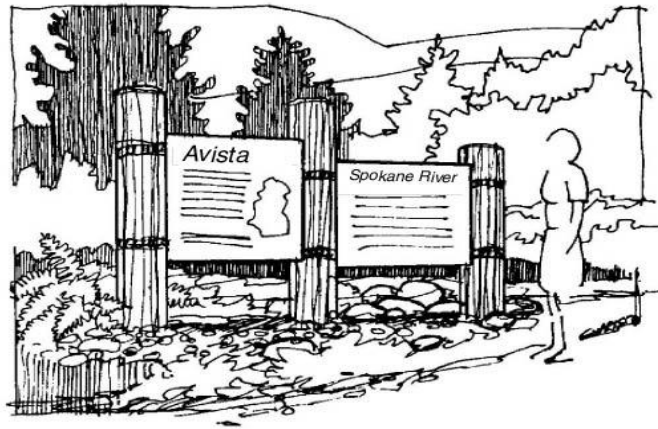
In addition to these waterbodies, upland areas in the vicinity of the dams and powerhouses are within the Project boundary, as are some other lands closely associated with the Project that are owned by Avista or public agencies. Recreation areas within the boundary include overlooks, picnic areas, trails, boat launches and swimming beaches.

Planning Process

Plan development was initiated soon after the License was issued in June 2009. Planning began with identifying the themes or “messages” that will be communicated. Much of this Plan’s thematic content was specified by License articles or identified in settlement agreements.

The planning effort also considered the media that will deliver the messages to the intended audiences. Several media alternatives were assessed for this Plan, and implementation primarily relies on signage, brochures, and web pages.

Many of the I&E efforts relate to areas that provide access to specific resources or recreational activities. As such, many sites were evaluated and some were selected for I&E implementation. Sites were chosen based on their linkage to the theme or the targeted audience. Most of the selected sites are within or immediately adjacent to the Project boundary.



Development of implementation strategies also considered how to achieve common objectives and best utilize the resources of I&E partners. In many instances, there were similar interests and parallel efforts were already underway. Sharing expertise or other capabilities and coordinating joint measures allowed more efficient and comprehensive I&E implementation.

A draft of this Plan was distributed for a 30-day stakeholder review and comment period in April 2010.¹ Stakeholders included:

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission;
- Washington Department of Natural Resources;
- Washington State Historic Preservation Office;
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game;
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation;
- Idaho State Historic Preservation Office;
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management; and
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In addition to the above entities, Avista sought input and comments from the following recreation management agencies;

- U.S. Forest Service;
- Kootenai County Parks and Waterways; and
- Post Falls Parks and Recreation Department.

¹ In addition to this review, other stakeholder review processes were conducted related to fisheries and aquatic weed management education and outreach measures, per their License requirements.

Copies of agency comments and recommendations, and Avista's responses of how they are accommodated by the Plan, are included in *Appendix B*.

This Plan is an adaptive management plan. To continue to meet its objectives, the Plan will be reviewed and updated as necessary every six years.

Plan Organization

The Plan focuses on creating I&E implementation measures, which are organized by themes. For each theme, an I&E purpose and sub-themes are presented. This is followed by information about the measures, including where and when they will occur. Additional information, such as resources or partners to assist in implementation, is also included. The intent is to provide sufficient detail to efficiently begin the implementation phase of the I&E (developing content, finalizing design, etc.).

Where an implementation measure relates to specific License requirements, the License article is noted. If the measure is part of a separate program (fisheries or aquatic weed management), that program is also referenced.

A section on media standards is also included to provide guidance on I&E presentation.



I&E Themes and Implementation Measures

Bald Eagles

I&E Purpose

Interpret bald eagle biology, behavior, and habitat needs and inform site visitors about management activities, viewing opportunities, and minimizing their impacts on bald eagles.

Sub-Themes

Eagles are at sites to meet their habitat needs.

- Typically inhabit areas along waterways.
- Eat fish, waterfowl, and small to medium mammals. Kill prey with their talons and use their beaks for tearing flesh, and also scavenge.
- Build their nests in the limbs of tall trees and return to them year-after-year. Nests can reach 5' across, 2' high and weigh 4,000 pounds.

Bald eagle biology.

- Typically survive over 30 years.
- Referred to as “bald” because of the white plumage on its head.
- Can reach flight speeds between 35 and 44 miles per hour.
- One of the largest raptors - 32” to 40” long with a wingspan of 6’ to 8’. Males smaller than females.
- Often mate for life. The female lays eggs in the spring and after 35 days chicks hatch. If more than one is hatched, usually only the chick that is more aggressive and takes most of the food survives. When food is abundant, both chicks will often survive. At 15 weeks of age, the young permanently leaves the nest.

Bald eagle viewing and current management activities.

- Presence of nearby viewing opportunity.
- Minimize noise and other human disturbance, especially during bald eagle nesting season which generally occurs between late winter and early summer each year.
- Avista conducts annual bald eagle nest surveys and monitors nests for occupancy and productivity.

Audience

Recreation site visitors.

I&E Implementation		
Measure	Location	Date
Bald Eagle I&E Measure Avista will develop and maintain interpretive panels that interpret bald eagle biology, behavior and habitat, and educate the public about management activities and appropriate viewing opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainey Hill (Coeur d'Alene River) 	2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q'emiln Park (Post Falls) 	2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centennial Trail Extension (between Sontag Park and Nine Mile Recreation Area, Lake Spokane) 	2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine Mile Recreation Area (Lake Spokane) 	2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Lake HED, picnic area 	2011
	<i>Locations may be added or changed depending bald eagle distribution, management objectives or other factors.</i>	

Additional Notes

License Article 418 (*Appendix A*) requires bald eagle I&E.

Coordinate review of interpretive panels with wildlife management agencies. Identify the specific locations for signage placement in consultation with wildlife management and site management agencies.

License Article 414 requires a Bald Eagle Management Plan, which establishes a bald eagle monitoring framework.

Fisheries

I&E Purpose

Educate the public about fisheries protection and enhancement measures implemented at the HEDs for wild rainbow trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and bull trout, and measures that can be taken by the public to minimize their impacts on native fish and their habitats.

Sub-Themes

Fisheries protection and enhancement measures and intended results for native trout.

- Avista and its partner agencies are working cooperatively to protect fish habitat and support fish populations.
- Flows from dams are managed to help protect or enhance the fishery.

Actions the public can take to minimize their impact on native fish and their habitats.

- Correctly identify wild rainbow, bull trout, and other fish species.
- Proper trout handling techniques.
- Angling regulations.

Audience

Anglers, shoreline landowners and other members of the public interested in fisheries.

I&E Implementation		
Measure	Location	Date
Fisheries I&E Measure #1 Avista will work with Washington State Parks and Washington State Fish and Wildlife to develop and maintain signs and bulletin boards along the Spokane River regarding: conservation and protection measures for rainbow (redband) trout, rainbow trout identification, proper trout handling techniques, angling regulations, and management objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Falls Reservoir at two locations along the north shore 	2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monroe Street Bridge on the north and south side 	2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plese Flats Day Use Area on Nine Mile Reservoir 	2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HWY 291 Boat Launch on Lake Spokane 	2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine Mile Recreation Area on Lake Spokane 	2012
Fisheries I & E Measure #2 Avista will work with cooperating agencies to develop a brochure regarding: wild rainbow trout identification, management objectives, angling rules, water quality, protection and conservation of habitat, and proper handling techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife offices • Riverside State Park Ranger Stations • Other businesses, visitor centers and forums as appropriate 	2010-2011

I&E Implementation		
Measure	Location	Date
<p>Fisheries I&E Measure #3 Avista will develop message points for public service announcements, printed handouts, news releases or other media regarding specific actions and intended results of License measures, including: Spokane River discharge flow management and monitoring, Post Falls Project spawning and emergence flows, and ramping rate evaluation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avista web pages • Media outlets • Public meetings • Other forums as appropriate 	As needed throughout License term
<p>Fisheries I&E Measure #4 Avista will work with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and agencies to support the development, maintenance and installation of kiosks, signs, and bulletin boards to educate the public regarding: angling, westslope cutthroat, bull trout and wild rainbow trout, identification, conservation and habitat protection associated with the Post Falls HED.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medimont boat launch on the Coeur d'Alene River 	2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainy Hill boat launch on Medicine Lake 	2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadowy St. Joe Campground on the St. Joe River 	2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cataldo Boat Ramp on the Coeur d'Alene River 	2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun-Up Bay boat launch on Coeur d'Alene Lake 	2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Maries City boat launch on the St. Joe River 	2014
<p>Fisheries I&E Measure #5 Avista will cooperate with Idaho Fish and Game and other cooperating agencies as appropriate to develop a brochure regarding: Coeur d'Alene Lake trout management objectives, trout identification, and proper trout handling techniques, and angling regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed at visitor centers, agency offices, etc. 	2011
<p>Fisheries I&E Measure #6 Avista will develop message points for public service announcements, printed handouts, news releases or other media regarding specific actions and intended results of License measures, including: Coeur d'Alene Lake non-native fish removal program, ramping rate evaluation, and other actions implemented through the Coeur d'Alene Lake Fishery Protection and Enhancement Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avista web pages • Media outlets • Public meetings • Other forums as appropriate 	As needed throughout License term

I&E Implementation		
Measure	Location	Date
Fisheries I&E Measure #7 Avista will develop message points for public service announcements, printed handouts, news releases or other media regarding angling enhancements associated with Avista's trout stocking at Upper Falls, Nine Mile Reservoir and Lake Spokane.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avista web pages • Media outlets • Public meetings • Other forums as appropriate 	As needed throughout License term

Additional Notes

Fisheries education and outreach measures referenced in this Plan are part of separate, License-required programs. The fisheries I&E measures at Coeur d'Alene Lake are part of an education and outreach program required by License Article 409 (*Appendix A*), which is being implemented independently from this Plan. Similarly, fisheries I&E measures along the Spokane River are part of an education and outreach plan required by License Article 408 (*Appendix A*), which is separate from this Plan. These initiatives will be consulted for the most current information about fishery-specific I&E.

Sign installation and other program implementation will be coordinated with fishery and land management agencies, including Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks, and Idaho Fish and Game. Kiosks, signs and bulletin boards at Coeur d'Alene Lake will be owned and managed by Idaho Fish and Game, and manufactured to Idaho Fish and Game specifications and will recognize partnering agencies. Signs and kiosks within Riverside State Park will be manufactured based on specifications set by Washington State Parks and are "standard" for the Spokane River.

Ice Age Floods

I&E Purpose

Interpret geologic events and evidence of ice age floods to site visitors.

Sub-Themes

Ice age flood events (ice dams, glacial Lake Missoula, floods, etc.).

- Southern advancement of continental ice sheets created ice dams that inhibited surface water drainage from north-western Montana.
- Water backed up, forming glacial Lake Missoula.
- Ice dams failed to retain water, releasing catastrophic floods across northern Idaho and Washington State. Floodwaters rushed into and covered sites along Spokane River Valley, along the current route of I-90.
- Ice dam building, refilling of glacial Lake Missoula, ice dam failure, and flood events were repeated many times.

Floods created geological effects that are generally visible as one travels through the region.

- Near Spokane, the waters split, with one arm following the Spokane River to its junction with the Columbia River. The other spills over into the Cheney-Palouse drainage.
- Floodwaters deposited sand, gravel, river rock and giant boulders.
- Flood laid down sand and gravel of the Spokane Rathdrum Aquifer, which lies 50-300 feet beneath the soil and covers more than 325 square miles from the southern part of Lake Pend Oreille to the Little Spokane River. The aquifer provides water to Spokane, Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene.

Audience

Recreation site visitors.

I&E Implementation		
Measure	Location	Date
Ice Age Floods I&E Measure Avista will develop and maintain an interpretive panel that interprets the geological events and results of the ice age floods in the vicinity of Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene Lake.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Falls Park (Post Falls)	2011

Additional Notes

License Article 418 (*Appendix A*) requires ice age floods I&E.

Avista will coordinate design and installation of panel with the Post Falls Parks and Recreation Department and interested parties.

Water Quality

I&E Purpose

Educate the public about causes and indicators of adverse water quality at Project waterways and about measures they can take to minimize their impacts on water quality.

Sub-Themes

Types and causes of adverse water quality.

- Algae blooms are natural but often exacerbated by nutrient loading from phosphorous-based fertilizers and point and non-point sources. Blooms can be prevalent during warm, low flow periods.
- Introduction and spread of invasive aquatic species, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, disrupts desirable ecological conditions. Invasive aquatic species outcompete and displace native species.

How the public can help improve water quality.

- Inspect and wash boats after loading on trailer to prevent the transport and spread of invasive aquatic species such as Eurasian watermilfoil.
- Eliminate use of phosphorous-based fertilizers on turf near shorelines.
- Reduce the size of shoreline lawns and convert to native vegetation.
- Evaluate efficiencies of septic tanks adjacent to the shoreline.

Audience

Boaters and shoreline property owners, and web site visitors.

I&E Implementation		
Measure	Location	Date
Water Quality I&E Measure #1 Avista will cooperate with other agencies in the development, installation, and maintenance of outreach materials and brochures explaining the problem of invasive aquatic species and how to minimize their infestation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boat launches in the Coeur d'Alene Lake system and Lake Spokane• Avista and agency field offices	2012
Water Quality I&E Measure #2 Avista will develop brochures and other outreach materials pertaining to the effects of excess nutrient loading into a waterbody, and stewardship measures that can reduce nutrient loading and improve the overall health of waterways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make available to shoreline property owners and other interested parties	2012

I&E Implementation		
Measure	Location	Date
<p>Water Quality I&E Measure #3 Avista will develop message points for public service announcements, printed handouts, news releases or other media regarding water quality issues and measures to improve overall water quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avista web pages • Media outlets • Public meetings • Other forums as appropriate 	As needed throughout License term

Additional Notes

Aquatic weed education measures referenced in this Plan are part of separate, License-required programs. Measures to be implemented in the Coeur d'Alene Lake system are included in aquatic weed management plans required by License Article 410 and Appendix D, Condition 7 (*Appendix A*). Similarly, aquatic weed education measures to be implemented for Lake Spokane are part of the Lake Spokane Aquatic Weed Management Program, associated with Appendix B, section 5.3(E)(1) of the license (*Appendix A*). These efforts include many other weed management activities and will be consulted for the most current information about aquatic weed management I&E.

History

I&E Purpose

Interpret the historic and archaeological values associated with the HEDs, including Native American use, settlement by pioneers, and hydropower development, to foster an understanding and appreciation of the area's historic properties.

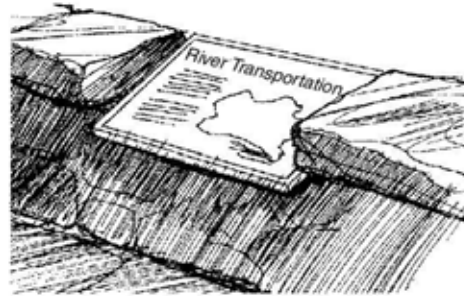
Sub-Themes

Native American use of the sites and resources.

- Native Americans lived in the area for centuries before the arrival of Euro-Americans.
- Some sites were used for fishing and spiritual purposes.

Early use of the area by pioneers and industries interested in water resources.

- Euro-Americans settled in the area because of the water resources.
- The waterfalls provided a source of energy to power nearby machines.



Development of the sites for electricity generation.

- Beginning in the 1890s, demand for electricity prompted the development of hydroelectric dams and powerhouses.
- Dams and their construction processes were state-of-the-art at the time.
- Dam operators lived and worked within communities at the sites.
- Many hydro structures are included within programs that preserve our historic heritage.

Audience

Recreation site visitors, and web site visitors

I&E Implementation		
Measure	Location	Date
<p>History I&E Measure #1 Avista will develop and maintain interpretive panels that interpret cultural use of the Post Falls dam site, including traditional Native American use, pioneers, early hydropower use, and construction and operation of the dam and powerhouse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falls Park (Post Falls) • Q'emiln Park (Post Falls) 	2012
<p>History I&E Measure #2 Avista will develop and maintain interpretive panels that interpret cultural use of the Upper Falls and Monroe Street Dam sites, including traditional Native American use, early hydropower use, and construction and operation of the dams and powerhouses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverfront Park (Spokane) • Huntington Park (Spokane) 	2009 <i>(completed)</i>
<p>History I&E Measure #3 Avista will develop interpretive panels, incorporating historic photographs and information on the engineering, architectural, and hydroelectric significance of the Nine Mile Dam Historic District.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine Mile Hydroelectric Power Plant Historic District (Nine Mile Dam) 	2011
<p>History I&E Measure #4 Avista will develop and maintain interpretive panels that interpret cultural use of the Long Lake Dam site, including traditional Native American use, early hydropower use, and construction and operation of the dam and powerhouse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Lake Dam Overlook (Long Lake Dam) 	2011
<p>History I&E Measure #5 Avista will assist Washington State Parks in the redevelopment of exhibits at the Spokane House Interpretive Center that interpret Native American and fur trader use of the area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spokane House (near Nine Mile Dam) 	2011

I&E Implementation		
Measure	Location	Date
<p>History I&E Measure #6 Protection of Cultural Resources; Avista will develop brochures and other outreach materials pertaining to the importance of cultural resources to Tribes and other communities, as well as the role of hydro generation and engineering qualities of HEDs, and inappropriate behavior and actions that could harm these resources. Avista will seek input and coordinate with the federal, state, and local land managers, the SHPO, and THPO when selecting the content and design of the educational material when appropriate. Other groups, organizations, and historians may also be of assistance in defining educational materials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project wide • Avista web pages 	2011

Additional Notes

License Article 418 (*Appendix A*) requires I&E to improve public awareness of and the need to protect historic properties.

Avista completed I&E development at its Upper Falls and Monroe Street Dams in July 2009. The I&E included five interpretive panels in Riverfront and Huntington Parks that focus on Native American use of the lower falls, early area use by settlers and industry, and development of hydropower resources at the upper and lower falls.

Avista will assist Washington State Parks in the redevelopment of interpretive displays at Spokane House, in coordination with the Historic Properties Management Plan required under License Article 421.

Boating Safety and Regulations

I&E Purpose

Encourage the safe and responsible use of Project waterways by informing and educating boaters about boating safety, boating rules and regulations, and minimizing their impacts on resources and other boaters.

Sub-Themes

Boating basics.

- Be alert and careful when boating—an accident can happen very quickly and unexpectedly. 70% of recreational boating accidents are caused by operator factors such as failure to pay attention, carelessness, recklessness, inexperience, excessive speed, and failure to watch for hazards.
- Always wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) or life jacket when you are on the water.
- Don't drink and boat—stay sober while boating; operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal. A boat operator with a .08 blood alcohol content (equivalent to consuming five beers in one hour for the average 180-lb male) is ten-times more likely to die in a boating accident than an operator with a zero blood alcohol level.
- Make sure you are prepared. Get your boat safety checked by the Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Power Squadron to ensure your boat is safely equipped.
- The environment and boating—discharge of sewage and waste, discharge of trash, oil and other hazardous substances.

Know and follow navigation rules and regulations.

- Take a safe boating course and learn how to safely navigate the waterways—navigation rules, night time navigation, navigation aids and markers, etc.
- Summarize Idaho and Washington boating laws.
- Obey speed limits and “no wake” zones.
- Maintain adequate distance between other watercraft, swimmers, shorelines and docks, etc.
- Report unsafe boaters to the sheriff's departments.

Audience

Boaters (all watercraft types).

I&E Implementation		
Measure	Location	Date
<p>Boating Safety and Regulations I&E Measure Avista will cooperate with Washington State Parks, Idaho Parks and Recreation, and other entities in the development and distribution of information and education materials regarding boating safety and rules and regulations at Project waterways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project-specific boat launches on Project waterways ● Avista and agency field offices ● Avista web pages ● Inland Empire media outlets ● Public meetings 	2011

Recreation Opportunities

I&E Purpose

Inform the public about recreation activities and facilities associated with Project lands and waterways, to encourage appropriate use and increase enjoyment.

Sub-Themes

The Project offers a variety of recreation opportunities.

- Waterways and adjacent lands provide boating, swimming, angling, picnicking, camping, and trail-related opportunities.
- Recreation sites are managed by Avista and several resource management partners, including: Idaho State Parks and Recreation, Idaho Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and several counties and cities.
- Settings vary from urban to semi-primitive and provide a range of conditions. Choose the opportunity that best meets your needs and have accurate expectations.
- There are many sources of information to help guide recreation use.

Audience

Recreationists.

I&E Implementation		
Measure	Location	Date
Recreation Opportunities I&E Measure #1 Avista will cooperate with agencies in the distribution of maps, brochures and other information and education materials related to recreation opportunities at Project lands and waterways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avista and agency field offices 	2010
Recreation Opportunities I&E Measure #2 Avista will update and maintain informational signage at its dams about recreation opportunities associated with Project HEDs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Falls Dam 	2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Falls Dam 	2009 <i>(completed)</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monroe Street Dam 	2009 <i>(completed)</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine Mile Dam 	2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Lake Dam 	2010

I&E Implementation		
Measure	Location	Date
Recreation Opportunities I&E Measure #3 Avista will develop and maintain web pages on its Project website that provide information about Project-related recreation opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avista website 	2011

Media Standards

This Plan relies on interpretive panels, signs, brochures and web pages as vehicles to deliver I&E messages. Media standards help present the messages in a consistent, systematic manner that promotes effective communication and identifies the I&E source.

Because of their small size and the potential limited attention of site visitors, information on interpretive panels and signs must be concise, hitting high points and piquing a reader's interest. Interpretive panels stimulate an understanding and appreciation of a theme, rather than fully informing the reader with lots of detail.

Avista and its I&E partners already maintain websites that support their communication objectives. Large amounts of information can be housed on a website, and links to other websites are typically available to access other sources of related information. Web pages can be advertised on signs, brochures, print or radio ads, and other web pages or found by Internet "search engines."

Avista has standardized "branding" guidelines related to color schemes, their logo appearance and placement, and the use of other graphic elements. The guidelines provide a unified communication approach and reinforce Avista's visual identity.

Interpretive panels or signs located on Avista property or related to Avista facilities, as well as brochures or web pages produced by Avista, are required to follow these branding guidelines.

Many of the signs, kiosks and brochures within the Plan will be produced by Avista's I&E partners, including Washington State Parks and Idaho Fish and Game. These entities also have adopted communication standards that will be followed for exhibits that relate to resources that they manage. Where I&E initiatives are the results of cooperative efforts, the partner entities will be acknowledged through appropriate use and placement of logos.




Layer the information. Artwork, graphics and text present information in unravelling layers of complexity. At the primary levels, simple and direct messages must satisfy the casual visitor's curiosity. More detailed information in subsequent levels satisfies those who want to know more.

Spokane River Project Long Lake Hydroelectric Development

>Welcome to Avista's Long Lake Hydroelectric Development. Long Lake Dam is part of Avista's Spokane River Project, which consists of five hydroelectric developments between Coeur d'Alene Lake in Idaho and Long Lake Dam in Washington (Post Falls, Upper Falls, Monroe Street, Nine Mile, and Long Lake). The Spokane River Project is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as Project No. 2545.

The Long Lake Hydroelectric Development was completed by Avista (formerly the Washington Water Power Company) in 1915. At the time it was built, it set records—its spillway dam was the world's highest and its turbines were the largest, both in size and capacity.



(background) Long Lake Dam and Powerhouse, soon after its completion in 1915.

Water flows from behind the 593-foot-long, 213-foot-high dam through four pipes (penstocks) into the powerhouse, where it spins turbines and then returns to the Spokane River. Four generators connected to the turbines can produce 71 megawatts of electricity, enough to power about 53,250 homes.

For more information on this or other Avista generating facilities, contact:
Avista
 1411 East Mission Avenue
 P.O. Box 3727
 Spokane, WA 99220-3727
 (800) 727-9170
www.avistacorp.com

For information about Riverside State Park:
 (509) 465-5064
www.parks.wa.gov

The Long Lake Hydroelectric Development provides numerous recreation opportunities and its lands are available to all members of the public without discrimination.

A viewpoint north of the Spokane River, off Highway 291, overlooks the picturesque hydroelectric plant and provides spectacular views of the spillway during spring runoff. A picnic area is located on the south bank of the Spokane River directly off Highway 231, approximately 1/2 mile downstream of the dam.

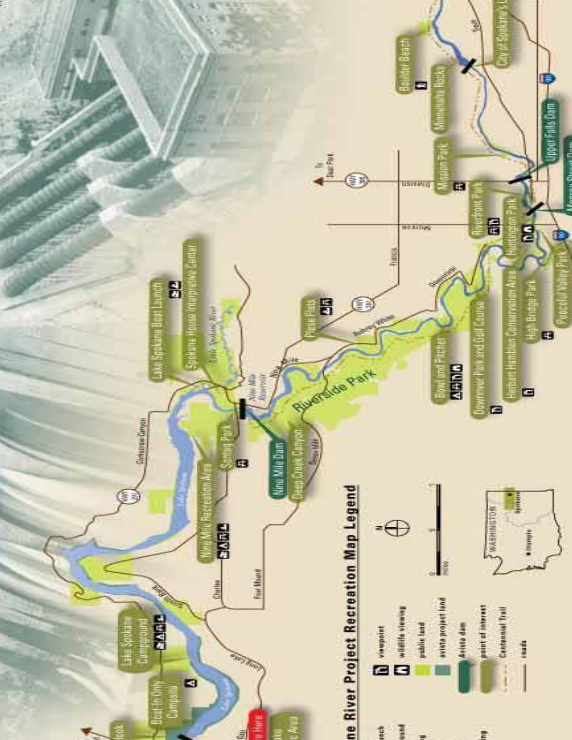
The 24-mile-long reservoir, commonly called Lake Spokane, provides fishing, boating, and swimming opportunities. Washington State Parks and the Department of Natural Resources manage their lands adjacent to the lake and provide camping and hiking opportunities as well.

For your personal safety and enjoyment of this area, please:

- Do not enter fenced areas.
- Park vehicles in designated areas only.
- Dispose of litter properly.
- Obey all signs.
- Respect private property.

CAUTION BOATERS:

- Water levels may change without warning.
- Stay away from dam—upstream and downstream.
- Always wear life jackets when boating.
- Be alert for debris, river obstructions and partially submerged objects.
- Obey all warning signs.



Spokane River Project Recreation Map Legend

boat launch	viewpoint	public land	state project land	dam	point of interest
campground	viewing	fishing	picnic	trail	road
canoeing	public land	fishing	picnic	trail	road
canoeing	public land	fishing	picnic	trail	road
canoeing	public land	fishing	picnic	trail	road


Spokane's Early
Hydroelectric Development

Monroe Street Dam and Powerhouse

Spokane was at the forefront of developing the benefits of hydropower by first generating electricity along the river in 1885. Within three years, 24-hour electric service was available and its reach was expanding. Spokane's role in supplying electricity to the region had begun.

Electricity was a new and exciting technology and many entrepreneurs recognized its potential. In 1889 Avista (then called the Washington Water Power Company) was created, and in 1890 it built the **Monroe Street Dam and Powerhouse** here at the "Lower Falls." This site held the greatest potential for producing electricity in Spokane and its development meant the beginning of the end for the smaller power plants along the river.


Because of its early use, this site has generated electricity longer than any other hydroelectric development in Washington state. In 1977 the original timber crib, rock-filled dam built near the top



of the lower waterfalls was replaced with a concrete dam. The dam diverts some of the river water into a large pipe, called a penstock, which is located beneath this walkway. Water flows through the penstock to the powerhouse, where it is used to generate electricity and then returned to the river. The underground powerhouse replaced the original powerhouse in 1992.

Early uses for electricity were limited but grew steadily. In addition to lights and stoves, other electric devices soon appeared. In the early 1900s, electric cooking ranges, water heaters and motors became readily available. Electrical service spread as early lighting communities were connected to Spokane's power. In 1903, a 100-mile-long transmission line was completed between Spokane and the Coeur d'Alene mines; at the time it was the longest transmission line in the world.

Electricity from the Monroe Street Powerhouse and the Upper Falls Powerhouse (located a short distance upstream) is transmitted through large underground cables to the Avista Post Street Substation (still identified with the Washington Water Power sign), which is located near the top of the stairs. The two power plants supply renewable and reliable electricity to Spokane's central business district.




1889 CMC Clark and Co. erects the first hydroelectric dam in Spokane, the Monroe Street Dam, which generates electricity for the city.

1890 The Electric Light and Power Company is formed in Spokane. It is the first electric utility in the Pacific Northwest.

1891 The Electric Light and Power Company is reorganized as the Spokane Electric Light and Power Company.

1892 The Electric Light and Power Company is reorganized as the Spokane Electric Light and Power Company.

1893 The Electric Light and Power Company is reorganized as the Spokane Electric Light and Power Company.



1894 The Electric Light and Power Company is reorganized as the Spokane Electric Light and Power Company.


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1904 The Electric Light and Power Company is reorganized as the Spokane Electric Light and Power Company.

1905 The Electric Light and Power Company is reorganized as the Spokane Electric Light and Power Company.

Spokane Falls

SAWYERS

(fast water)



“One day Coyote was enjoying himself going up along the banks of the Spokane River. He gazed across the river and saw a local tribe getting ready to fish for salmon for the winter—the local tribe really enjoyed the fish and they had lots of it.

All at once Coyote stopped. There he saw a beautiful Indian woman from this tribe. In his eyes she was the most beautiful woman in the world and he knew right then and there he had to have her.

Coyote began the task of gathering mice, trackmen and other things that were important to him to give to the Chief of the tribe in exchange for the privilege of marrying the woman, who it turned out was the Chief's daughter. The Chief warned Coyote down, refusing to let Coyote marry his daughter. Coyote left mad, but when he saw the woman again he just knew he had to have her. So he approached her but she got scared and ran away from him. “Well, if the Chief wants more he'll get more,” Coyote said to himself.

So he began the task of gathering even more mice and other things that were important to him to give to the Chief. The Chief stood his ground and refused to allow Coyote to marry his daughter—and pointed out to him that it is impossible for Coyote to marry a human. Coyote warned the Chief that if he couldn't

marry the woman, he would use his special powers to punish the Chief and his people sometimes. Then he looked around and noticed how plentiful the fish were so he threatened to run the water and the fish. The Chief didn't believe it and simply dismissed Coyote and everything he had to say.

Coyote returned to the animal spirit for special powers. The animal spirit granted the power to make the animal spirit that he only wanted to move some rocks. The animal spirit granted the power to make the rocks—since it didn't seem possible that anyone could get hurt just by some rocks getting moved. He Coyote took his special powers and moved some huge rocks into the Spokane River, creating Spokane Falls, which blocked the way of the salmon from reaching the tribe upstream.

Then, Coyote asked the other tribes downstream for their help to get the woman, but he was refused by them also. After that he was mad at all the tribes along the Spokane River, so he put rocks all the way down the river to where it empties into the Columbia River.

From that time the salmon were gone from the Spokane River and all its tributaries forever.”

The illustrations, including Spokane Falls, are based on a collection of oral traditions and legends from the Spokane people. The illustrations are the work of the Spokane artist, Charles M. Smith. They are a part of the Spokane River Heritage Project, a project of the Spokane River Heritage Foundation.

1872 Several thousand Chinook men, women and children were killed by the smallpox epidemic that swept through the region in 1872. The epidemic was brought to the region by the Hudson's Bay Company traders.

1881 The Spokane Tribe of Indians was established as a reservation in 1881. The reservation was located on the Spokane River, near the mouth of the river.

1887 The Spokane Tribe of Indians was established as a reservation in 1887. The reservation was located on the Spokane River, near the mouth of the river.

1906 The Spokane Tribe of Indians was established as a reservation in 1906. The reservation was located on the Spokane River, near the mouth of the river.

1953 The Spokane Tribe of Indians was established as a reservation in 1953. The reservation was located on the Spokane River, near the mouth of the river.

1974 The Spokane Tribe of Indians was established as a reservation in 1974. The reservation was located on the Spokane River, near the mouth of the river.

Today The Spokane Tribe of Indians is a sovereign nation. The tribe is located on the Spokane River, near the mouth of the river.

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Appendix A:

FERC License Requirements Related to I&E

The following articles are included in the FERC license for the Spokane River Project (Project No. 2545), issued June 18, 2009.

Article 418. Interpretation and Education Plan. Within one year of license issuance, the licensee shall file for Commission approval an Interpretation and Education Plan. The plan, at a minimum, shall include: (1) a description of interpretive materials informing the public about the Spokane River developments, Post Falls development, and associated environmental resources; (2) a provision for incorporating a bald eagle education and interpretive program; (3) a provision for developing and installing an interpretive display regarding the Ice Age Floods; (4) a provision for incorporating interpretive materials and/or a program to improve public awareness of and the need to protect historic properties; and (5) an implementation schedule.

The licensee shall develop the plan after consultation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Washington Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Washington State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Idaho SHPO. The licensee shall include with the plan documentation of consultation, copies of comments and recommendations on the completed plan after it has been prepared and provided to the entities, and specific descriptions of how the entities' comments are accommodated by the plan. The licensee shall allow a minimum of 30 days for the entities to comment and to make recommendations before filing the plan with the Commission. If the licensee does not adopt a recommendation, the filing shall include the licensee's reasons, based on project-specific information.

The Commission reserves the right to require changes to the plan. The licensee shall not begin implementing the plan until after the Commission notifies the licensee that the plan is approved. Upon Commission approval, the licensee shall implement the plan, including any changes required by the Commission.

Article 408. Spokane River Trout Public Education and Outreach. Within one year of license issuance, the licensee shall file, for Commission approval, a Spokane River rainbow trout fisheries public education and outreach plan, for the purpose of educating the public about protection and enhancement measures implemented at the developments for wild rainbow trout, and measures that can be taken by the public to minimize their impacts on native trout and their habitats. The plan shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

(1) the specific number of signs and the specific information that will be placed on the signage for the program; (2) the specific locations where the signage will be placed at the Spokane River developments; and (3) the specific details of any other outreach activities that will occur under the program.

The plan shall be developed after consultation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The licensee shall include with the plan an implementation schedule, documentation of

consultation, copies of recommendations on the completed plan after it has been prepared and provided to the agencies, and specific descriptions of how the agencies' comments are accommodated by the plan. The licensee shall allow a minimum of 30 days for the agencies to comment and to make recommendations before filing the plan with the Commission. If the licensee does not adopt a recommendation, the filing shall include the licensee's reasons, based on project-specific information.

The Commission reserves the right to require changes to the plan. The licensee shall not begin implementing the plan until after the Commission approves it. Upon Commission approval, the licensee shall implement the plan, including any changes required by the Commission.

Article 409. Coeur d'Alene Lake Fisheries Public Education and Outreach. For the purpose of educating the public about fisheries protection and enhancement measures implemented at the Post Falls development, and measures that can be taken by the public to minimize their impacts on native fish and their habitats, the licensee shall incorporate the following provisions for a fishery public education and outreach program into the Fishery Protection and Enhancement Plan required by Appendix A, Condition VII(A): (1) the specific number of signs and the specific information that will be placed on the signage for the outreach program; (2) the specific locations where the signage will be placed at project-affected waters; and (3) the specific details of any other outreach activities that will occur under the program.

In addition to an implementation schedule, the licensee shall include with the plan, documentation of consultation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; copies of comments and recommendations on the completed plan after it has been prepared and provided to the agencies; and specific descriptions of how the agencies' and tribe's comments are accommodated by the plan. The licensee shall allow a minimum of 30 days for the agencies and tribe to comment and to make recommendations before filing the plan with the Commission. If the licensee does not adopt a recommendation, the filing shall include the licensee's reasons based on project-specific information.

The Commission reserves the right to require changes to the plan. Implementation of the plan and associated schedule shall not begin until the plan and schedule are approved by the Commission. Upon Commission approval, the licensee shall implement the plan and schedule, including any changes required by the Commission.

Article 410. Coeur d'Alene Lake Aquatic Weed Management for Non-tribal Waters. Within one year of license issuance, the licensee shall file, for Commission approval, a Coeur d'Alene Lake aquatic weed management plan for the purpose of providing education, monitoring, and control of aquatic noxious weeds in the Coeur d'Alene Lake basin on non-tribal waters. The plan shall include, but not necessarily be limited to: (1) a provision to establish or expand educational programs with respect to noxious aquatic weeds in non-tribal waters affected by the project; (2) a provision to annually monitor the distribution of noxious aquatic weeds within non-tribal waters affected by the project; and (3) management strategies to help control noxious aquatic weeds as they are identified within non-tribal waters affected by the project.

In addition to an implementation schedule, the licensee shall include with the plan, documentation of consultation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; copies of comments and recommendations on the completed plan after it has been prepared and provided to the consulted entities; and specific descriptions of how the consulted entities' comments are accommodated by the plan. The licensee shall allow a minimum of 30 days for the consulted entities to comment and to make recommendations before filing the plan with the Commission. If the licensee does not adopt a recommendation, the filing shall include the licensee's reasons based on project-specific information.

The Commission reserves the right to require changes to the plan. Implementation of the plan and associated schedule shall not begin until the plan and schedule are approved by the Commission. Upon Commission approval, the licensee shall implement the plan and schedule, including any changes required by the Commission.

Appendix B, Washington Department of Ecology Certification Conditions under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 5.3 E. Non-Native Aquatic Invasive Plants. The Licensee shall develop a Lake Spokane Aquatic Weed Management Program in conjunction with FERC, WDFW and Ecology for review and approval within one year of issuance of the FERC license. The Program shall include but not be limited to: 1. Cooperation/Coordination: The development of monitoring plans to identify, design, and implement an agreed upon in-field action to control the spread and occurrence of Eurasian watermilfoil with a primary focus on access sites. The Licensee will also work with the cooperating parties to monitor and control the other existing exotic aquatic weeds and any new exotic aquatic weeds that may become established. This may also include educating the public and area landowners about the threats posed by the spread of aquatic weeds and the appropriate means of limiting their spread or reducing their occurrence.

Appendix D, Conditions filed by the U.S. Department of Interior pursuant to Section 4(e) of the FPA, Condition 7.2. Coeur d'Alene Reservation Aquatic Weed Management.

Within one (1) year of license issuance, the Licensee shall file with the Commission for approval a Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation Aquatic Weed Management Plan to control exotic and noxious aquatic weeds in waters affected by the Project that are within or immediately adjoining the Reservation. The Plan shall be prepared in collaboration with the Tribe. The Licensee shall submit the Plan to the Secretary for review and approval at least 60 days before filing it with the Commission. When filing the Plan with the Commission, the Licensee shall include documentation of collaboration with the Tribe, and copies of any comments and recommendations from the Tribe. If the Licensee files the Plan with the Commission without first obtaining the Secretary's approval, the Licensee shall include specific reasons for doing so. The Licensee shall implement the Plan upon its approval by the Secretary and the Commission.

The Plan shall provide that the Licensee shall:

1. Conduct surveys annually, or at other appropriate periods if agreed to by the Licensee and the Tribe and approved by the Secretary, using divers, underwater video equipment, or other appropriate technology to identify, assess and map infestation and distribution of exotic and noxious aquatic weeds, such as, but not limited to, Eurasian watermilfoil;

2. Formulate management actions, based on results of required surveys, specific to each identified weed for implementation during the following growing season. Management actions shall include, but are not limited to, public awareness and education, appropriate and approved herbicide treatment, diver-operated suction removal, diver hand removal and bottom barriers;
3. Provide a schedule for required surveying and implementation of management actions;
4. Coordinate Plan actions with management of other resources, including but not limited to effects on cultural resources and properties, terrestrial, aquatic, riparian and wetland habitat, water quality, wildlife, fisheries, recreation, and transport and deposition of heavy metals. Plan actions may be based on a review of relevant case studies and literature, if available, that identify and assess new weed management techniques and proposals appropriate for use on Coeur d'Alene Lake; and
5. Develop criteria to measure progress towards control of each identified weed.

Appendix B:

Agency Comments and Avista's Responses

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife



April 15, 2010

Doug Robison
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
2315 N. Discovery Place
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, FERC Project No. 2545; License Article 416 Spokane River Developments Recreation Plan, and License Article 417 Post Falls Development Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. Robison:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project (Spokane River Project), FERC Project No. 2545. The License contains two articles related to the development of recreation plans. Article 416 requires a recreation plan for enhancements at the Upper Falls, Monroe Street, Nine Mile, and Long Lake Hydroelectric Developments (HEDs). Article 417 requires a recreation plan for enhancements at the Post Falls HED.

The enclosed draft Spokane River Project Recreation Plan (Plan) was developed in accordance with Articles 416 and 417 to address input from the Recreation, Land Use and Aesthetics Work Group during Avista's relicensing process. The intent of Plan is to meet License requirements, facilitate a Project-wide approach to recreation planning, and provide FERC, Avista, and its stakeholders with one primary point-of-reference for recreation resource enhancements.

The two License articles require consultation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office during the development of the enclosed Plan. Though not required by the License, we are also asking the Post Falls Parks and Recreation Department, Kootenai County Parks and Waterways, and the U.S. Forest Service for comments on the Plan because it includes recreation enhancements that will be completed in cooperation with them.

With this, please review and provide any comments or recommendations on the draft Plan to me by May 16, 2010. After consultation, we are required to submit the Plan to FERC for approval.

If you have any questions regarding the Plan, feel free to call me at (509) 495-4998.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Speed Fitzhugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosure



Region 1 Office: 2315 North Discovery Place, Spokane Valley, WA 99216-1566
(509) 892-1001

May 12, 2010

Mr. Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager
Avista Corporation
1411 E. Mission Ave
Spokane, WA 99220-3727

**RE: Spokane River Project, FERC Project No. 2545, License Article 418,
Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan**

Dear Mr. Fitzhugh,

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed the Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan (Plan) and offers the following comments. Article 418 of the FERC License requires Avista to consult with WDFW during development of the Plan.

In the Plan purpose, it stated that the primary objective is to provide interpretation and education (I&E) to inform the public of recreation opportunities and enhance their experiences. No place in this Plan, including the section on fisheries and the section on recreation opportunities, discusses recreational enhancements provided for under Article 405 (Trout Stocking) and Article 406 (Lake Spokane Fishery Enhancement). The annual trout stocking enhancements required in the License will provide significant recreational opportunities for the term of the License and represents a significant effort by Avista. Please include in this Plan specific details on these efforts, including where, how, and the frequency Avista will inform the public about these activities. In addition to locations listed for recreational I&E, the distribution of I&E brochures pertaining to recreational fishing should include (but be not limited to) sporting good stores (e.g. Cabela's and other fishing stores), and all locations fishing licenses are sold. Ideal locations should also include kiosks at reservoir access points. WDFW requests that Avista work with WDFW in the development and distribution of these materials.

On page 6 under the Bald Eagle section, please expand the Fisheries I&E locations for this measure to include areas around Lake Spokane. Currently, there are places around Lake Spokane where bald eagles are known to nest and forage. Appropriate locations include the confluence with the Little Spokane River, the Nine Mile Recreation area, the Department of Natural Resources recreation site, and vista points near Long Lake HED.

In the section on fisheries, measures targeting native trout conservation are referred to as enhancement measures. In our May 7, 2010 letter to Avista addressing the Spokane River Wild Rainbow Trout Public Education and Outreach Plan, we comment on the inappropriate reference to enhancement measures related to native trout conservation. Under the FERC License, the measures for native trout conservation are *mitigation* measures. Please make the appropriate corrections in this section of the Plan. Please modify this section based on revisions made to the Spokane River Wild Rainbow Trout Public Education and Outreach Plan.

On page 9 of the Plan, it states that sign installation and other program implementation will be coordinated with fishery and land management agencies. Please list the relevant agencies and include WDFW.

On page 10 in the Water Quality section, please include information on Zebra and Quagga Mussels, preventative measures, and their potential environmental impacts in reservoirs like those created by the Spokane River Project. For Water Quality I&E measures #1 and 2, please expand distribution to include other appropriate places for this outreach effort and include sporting good stores (e.g. Cabela's), fly shops, community centers, and all locations fishing licenses are sold in the greater Spokane area. In addition, WDFW requests that these types of brochures be included in annual mailings to all Avista customers with homes or businesses located along the Spokane River, both impounded and free-flowing sections of the river.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations on this Plan. If you have any questions or want to discuss any of our comments, I can be reached at 509-892-1001 x322.

Sincerely,



Doug Robison
Hydropower Mitigation Coordinator

c: FERC

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Comments and Avista Responses

Comment: In the Plan purpose, it stated that the primary objective is to provide interpretation and education (I&E) to inform the public of recreation opportunities and enhance their experiences. No place in this Plan, including the section on fisheries and the section on recreation opportunities, discusses recreational enhancements provided for under Article 405 (Trout Stocking) and Article 406 (Lake Spokane Fishery Enhancement). The annual trout stocking enhancements required in the License will provide significant recreational opportunities for the term of the License and represents a significant effort by Avista. Please include in this Plan specific details on these efforts, including where, how, and the frequency Avista will inform the public about these activities. In addition to locations listed for recreational I&E, the distribution of I&E brochures pertaining to recreational fishing should include (but be not limited to) sporting good stores (e.g. Cabela's and other fishing stores), and all locations fishing licenses are sold. Ideal locations should also include kiosks at reservoir access points. WDFW requests that Avista work with WDFW in the development and distribution of these materials.

Avista Response: *Fisheries I&E Measure #7 was added to the Plan, which educates the public about angling enhancements associated with Avista's trout stocking at Upper Falls, Nine Mile Reservoir and Lake Spokane. Information about the stocking will be delivered on Avista's web pages, media outlets, public meetings, and other forums as appropriate, over the course of the License term. Because these strategies will efficiently and adequately reach anglers interested in these fishery resources, providing brochures at all sporting goods stores and fishing licence sale locations is unnecessary and an excessively broad information distribution approach.*

Comment: On page 6 under the Bald Eagle section, please expand the Fisheries I&E locations for this measure to include areas around Lake Spokane. Currently, there are places around Lake Spokane where bald eagles are known to nest and forage. Appropriate locations include the confluence with the Little Spokane River, the Nine Mile Recreation area, the Department of Natural Resources recreation site, and vista points near Long Lake HED.

Avista Response: *Avista has developed a Bald Eagle Management Plan for the Project, in collaboration with WDFW staff. The Bald Eagle Management Plan is currently being reviewed by FERC and was considered when selecting the location for bald eagle I&E on Lake Spokane. Avista has included two additional locations around Lake Spokane as requested. One on Lake Spokane near Nine Mile Recreation Area and one at the Long Lake Dam Picnic Area. These are the two sites where visitors are most likely to experience bald eagle viewing.*

Comment: In the section on fisheries, measures targeting native trout conservation are referred to as enhancement measures. In our May 7, 2010 letter to Avista addressing the Spokane River Wild Rainbow Trout Public Education and Outreach Plan, we comment on the inappropriate reference to enhancement measures related to native trout conservation. Under the FERC License, the measures for native trout conservation are *mitigation* measures. Please make the appropriate corrections in this section of the Plan. Please modify this section based on revisions made to the Spokane River Wild Rainbow Trout Public Education and Outreach Plan.

Avista Response: *Per License Article 408, the purpose of the Spokane River Wild Rainbow Trout Fisheries Public Education and Outreach Plan is to educate the public about protection and enhancement measures implemented at the developments. Avista will interpret the various measures that it is implementing to protect and enhance the fishery, once those measures are identified and implemented.*

Comment: On page 9 of the Plan, it states that sign installation and other program implementation will be coordinated with fishery and land management agencies. Please list the relevant agencies and include WDFW.

Avista Response: *The “Additional Notes” at the end of the Fisheries section was modified to specifically mention Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks, and Idaho Fish and Game as fishery and land management agencies that will be involved with sign installation and other program implementation.*

Comment: On page 10 in the Water Quality section, please include information on Zebra and Quagga Mussels, preventative measures, and their potential environmental impacts in reservoirs like those created by the Spokane River Project. For Water Quality I&E measures #1 and 2, please expand distribution to include other appropriate places for this outreach effort and include sporting good stores (e.g. Cabela’s), fly shops, community centers, and all locations fishing licenses are sold in the greater Spokane area. In addition, WDFW requests that these types of brochures be included in annual mailings to all Avista customers with homes or businesses located along the Spokane River, both impounded and free-flowing sections of the river.

Avista Response: *In the Water Quality section, the focus of the measure centers around control of invasive aquatic weeds. The License does not require educational measures regarding Zebra and Quagga Mussels, neither of which are found on the Project. Avista will however cooperate with other entities in their education programs associated with the wide array of invasive species not presently found in the area.*

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office



April 15, 2010

Suzi Pengilly
Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
210 Main Street
Boise, ID 83702

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, FERC Project No. 2545; License Article 416 Spokane River Developments Recreation Plan, and License Article 417 Post Falls Development Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Pengilly:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project (Spokane River Project), FERC Project No. 2545. The License contains two articles related to the development of recreation plans. Article 416 requires a recreation plan for enhancements at the Upper Falls, Monroe Street, Nine Mile, and Long Lake Hydroelectric Developments (HEDs). Article 417 requires a recreation plan for enhancements at the Post Falls HED.

The enclosed draft Spokane River Project Recreation Plan (Plan) was developed in accordance with Articles 416 and 417 to address input from the Recreation, Land Use and Aesthetics Work Group during Avista's relicensing process. The intent of Plan is to meet License requirements, facilitate a Project-wide approach to recreation planning, and provide FERC, Avista, and its stakeholders with one primary point-of-reference for recreation resource enhancements.

The two License articles require consultation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office during the development of the enclosed Plan. Though not required by the License, we are also asking the Post Falls Parks and Recreation Department, Kootenai County Parks and Waterways, and the U.S. Forest Service for comments on the Plan because it includes recreation enhancements that will be completed in cooperation with them.

With this, please review and provide any comments or recommendations on the draft Plan to me by May 16, 2010. After consultation, we are required to submit the Plan to FERC for approval.

If you have any questions regarding the Plan, feel free to call me at (509) 495-4998.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Speed Fitzhugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosure



April 23, 2010

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager
Avista
P.O. Box 3727
Spokane WA 99220-3727

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Our mission: to preserve and promote Idaho's cultural heritage.

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C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

Janet L. Gallimore
Executive Director

Administration
2205 Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, Idaho 83712-8250
Office: (208) 334-2682
Fax: (208) 334-2774

Membership and Fund Development
2205 Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, Idaho 83712-8250
Office: (208) 514-2310
Fax: (208) 334-2774

Archaeological Survey of Idaho
210 Main Street
Boise, Idaho 83702-7264
Office: (208) 334-3847
Fax: (208) 334-2775

Historical Museum and Education Programs
610 North Julia Davis Drive
Boise, Idaho 83702-7695
Office: (208) 334-2120
Fax: (208) 334-4059

Historic Preservation Office
210 Main Street
Boise, Idaho 83702-7264
Office: (208) 334-3861
Fax: (208) 334-2775

Old Penitentiary and Historic Sites
2445 Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, Idaho 83712-8254
Office: (208) 334-2844
Fax: (208) 334-3225
Statewide Sites
- Franklin Historic Site
- Pierce Courthouse
- Rock Creek Station & Stricker Homestead

Public Archives and Research Library
2205 Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, Idaho 83712-8250
Office: (208) 334-3356
Fax: (208) 334-3198
- Public Archives
- Research Library
- Oral History

North Idaho Office
112 W. Fourth Street, Suite 7
Moscow, ID 83843
Office: (208) 882-1540
Fax: (208) 882-1763

RE: FERC Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan

Dear Mr. Fitzhugh:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the historical interpretation proposed in the Interpretation and Education Plan for the Spokane River Project. We are pleased that interpretive panels will be installed in Falls Park and Q'emiln Park in Post Falls. We were surprised, however, that these are the only panels on history planned for the entire Post Falls project area. We would like to see additional panels describing local and tribal history on the St. Joe and Coeur d'Alene rivers and around Lake Coeur d'Alene. These could be placed at recreation sites alongside panels describing fisheries and boating, etc.. Panels at Heyburn State Park may also be appropriate.

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions about our comments, please feel free to contact me at 208-334-3847, ext. 107.

Sincerely,

Susan Pengilly
Deputy SHPO and
Compliance Coordinator

Cc: Toni Pessemier, Avista



The Idaho State Historical Society is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office Comments and Avista Responses

Comment: We are pleased that interpretive panels will be installed in Falls Park and Q'emiln Park in Post Falls. We were surprised, however, that these were the only panels on history planned for the entire Post Falls project area. We would like to see additional panels describing local and tribal history on the St. Joe and Coeur d'Alene rivers and around Lake Coeur d'Alene. These could be placed at recreation sites alongside panels describing fisheries and boating, etc. Panels at Heyburn State Park may also be appropriate.

Avista Response: *Avista's Historical I&E in the Plan is focused on geographic areas within the Project boundary, which is established by the License. At Post Falls' Q'emiln and Falls Parks, located near the dam, I&E efforts are more concentrated and focused on history.*

Additionally, Avista has entered in to settlement agreements with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Parks and Recreation (IDPR), Kootenai County Parks and Waterways, City of Coeur d'Alene and City of Post Falls Parks and Recreation Departments, that address public recreation, including interpretive facilities where appropriate. These agreements are not part of the FERC License, and therefore the facilities associated with these are not included in the Project's Recreation or I&E Plans. This plan was created in consultation with numerous recreation and land management agencies; many have developed and are currently operating under previously developed agency interpretive plans, specifically designed with themes for the properties they manage. This plan complements interpretive measures and components that stakeholders /agencies already have in place or are working towards on the St. Joe, St. Maries, Coeur D'Alene River and Coeur d'Alene Lake area. The settlement agreements allow each agency to decide how they wish to incorporate and implement interpretive measures on their property.

In regard to interpretive signs at Heyburn State Park, part of Avista's settlement agreement with IDPR states that Avista will cooperate with IDPR in the development of an oasis along the Trail of the Coeur d'Alene's in Heyburn State Park, which may include interpretive displays depicting the park, tribal history, the lake and/or wildlife.

Washington State Parks and Recreation



April 15, 2010

Tom Ernsberger
Washington State Parks and Recreation
270 9th St., N.E., Suite 200
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, FERC Project No. 2545; License Article 416 Spokane River Developments Recreation Plan, and License Article 417 Post Falls Development Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. Ernsberger:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project (Spokane River Project), FERC Project No. 2545. The License contains two articles related to the development of recreation plans. Article 416 requires a recreation plan for enhancements at the Upper Falls, Monroe Street, Nine Mile, and Long Lake Hydroelectric Developments (HEDs). Article 417 requires a recreation plan for enhancements at the Post Falls HED.

The enclosed draft Spokane River Project Recreation Plan (Plan) was developed in accordance with Articles 416 and 417 to address input from the Recreation, Land Use and Aesthetics Work Group during Avista's relicensing process. The intent of Plan is to meet License requirements, facilitate a Project-wide approach to recreation planning, and provide FERC, Avista, and its stakeholders with one primary point-of-reference for recreation resource enhancements.

The two License articles require consultation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office during the development of the enclosed Plan. Though not required by the License, we are also asking the Post Falls Parks and Recreation Department, Kootenai County Parks and Waterways, and the U.S. Forest Service for comments on the Plan because it includes recreation enhancements that will be completed in cooperation with them.

With this, please review and provide any comments or recommendations on the draft Plan to me by May 16, 2010. After consultation, we are required to submit the Plan to FERC for approval.

If you have any questions regarding the Plan, feel free to call me at (509) 495-4998.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Speed Fitzhugh".

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosures



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

EASTERN REGION HEADQUARTERS • OPERATIONS DIVISION
270 9th Street NE, Suite 200 • East Wenatchee, WA 98802 • (509) 665-4319
Washington Telecommunication Relay Service (TDD) 800-833-6388



May 6, 2010

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Project Manager, Land Use & Aesthetics
Avista Utilities
P.O. Box 3727
Spokane, WA 99220-3727

Dear Speed,


Thank you for the opportunity to review the Land Use Management Plan, the Interpretation and Education Plan, and the Recreation Plan for the Spokane River Project.

After reviewing these plans, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission agrees with and supports the general statements in each. We look forward to working with you on the specifics of each plan as it relates to Washington State Parks.

I did have two comments regarding the plans. First, on page 13 of the Interpretation and Education plan, measure 3 has an incomplete sentence. I believe it should read, "AVISTA will develop and maintain..." My second comment is in regards to the Land Use Management Plan, section 6.2.2.6. I believe from experience that \$5,000 is not nearly enough to accomplish the amount of work stated in the plan.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on these plans. Please feel free to contact me if further explanation is desired.

Sincerely,


Tom Ernsberger,
Region Operations Manager

Cc: Riverside State Park
File

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Comments and Avista Responses

Comment: After reviewing the plans, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission agrees with and support the general statements in each. We look forward to working with you on the specifics of each plan as it relates to Washington State Parks.

Comment: I did have two comments regarding the plans. First on page 13 of the Interpretation and Education Plan, measure 3 has an incomplete sentence. I believe it should read, “Avista will develop and maintain.” My second comment is in regards to the Land Use Management Plan.

Avista Response: *The sentence has been corrected. Avista will address Washington State Parks second comment in Appendix C (Agency Comments) of the Land Use Management Plan.*

U.S. Bureau of Land Management



April 15, 2010

Brian White
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, FERC Project No. 2545; License Article 416 Spokane River Developments Recreation Plan, and License Article 417 Post Falls Development Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. White:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project (Spokane River Project), FERC Project No. 2545. The License contains two articles related to the development of recreation plans. Article 416 requires a recreation plan for enhancements at the Upper Falls, Monroe Street, Nine Mile, and Long Lake Hydroelectric Developments (HEDs). Article 417 requires a recreation plan for enhancements at the Post Falls HED.

The enclosed draft Spokane River Project Recreation Plan (Plan) was developed in accordance with Articles 416 and 417 to address input from the Recreation, Land Use and Aesthetics Work Group during Avista's relicensing process. The intent of Plan is to meet License requirements, facilitate a Project-wide approach to recreation planning, and provide FERC, Avista, and its stakeholders with one primary point-of-reference for recreation resource enhancements.

The two License articles require consultation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office during the development of the enclosed Plan. Though not required by the License, we are also asking the Post Falls Parks and Recreation Department, Kootenai County Parks and Waterways, and the U.S. Forest Service for comments on the Plan because it includes recreation enhancements that will be completed in cooperation with them.

With this, please review and provide any comments or recommendations on the draft Plan to me by May 16, 2010. After consultation, we are required to submit the Plan to FERC for approval.

If you have any questions regarding the Plan, feel free to call me at (509) 495-4998.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Speed Fitzhugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Coeur d'Alene Field Office
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815



In Reply Refer To:
1372 (IDC010)

MAY 6 2010

Avista Corporation
Attn: Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
P.O. Box 3727
Spokane, WA 99220-3727

Dear Mr. Fitzhugh:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan (Plan). Brian White, Outdoor Recreation Planner, has reviewed the document in detail and has provided the following comments.

The annual BLM Eagle Watch is a major educational and interpretive event for our Field Office. It has been conducted for the last eighteen years in late December at our Mineral Ridge Boat Launch and Mineral Ridge Scenic Area, and has drawn visitors from around the nation and the world. The BLM sets up a travel trailer, interpretive displays, mounted raptor specimens, and high-powered spotting scopes for the public to enjoy during the event. The BLM will continue to utilize funding from its independent relicensing Agreement with Avista to improve public experiences at this event which supports the bald eagle component of the Plan.

Our wildlife biologist, Carrie Hugo, recommended some specific edits to the Bald Eagle section of the Plan on p. 5 as follows. Please add *italicized/bolded* text.

1. "Eat fish, waterfowl, and small to medium mammals. Kill prey with their talons and use their beaks for tearing flesh, *and also scavenge.*"
2. "Often mate for life. The female lays eggs in the spring and after 35 days chicks hatch. If more than one is hatched, usually only the chick that is more aggressive and takes most of the food survives. *When food is abundant, both chicks will often survive.* At 15 weeks of age, the young permanently leaves the nest."

Ms. Hugo is also interested in reviewing the Bald Eagle Management Plan that will be produced as part of the Project.

The BLM will also be supporting the Fisheries section of the plan at the Huckleberry campground upriver on the St. Joe by continuing to provide angler and fishery information to the public there.

Although the campground is removed from the Project, there are inherent ecological links between recreational fishing activity and fishery health at all points along the river system. Huckleberry campground serves as a starting point for many fishermen using the St. Joe river system, and annually sees over 17,000 visitors. BLM will continue to provide fisheries information at the kiosks at that site which will improve public identification of sensitive/threatened native species as well as giving them a better understanding of fisheries theme within the Plan.

I recommend Measure #1 in the water quality section (p. 10-11) be moved up to 2011 from 2012 due to the high level of publicity devoted to this issue and public confusion regarding the new invasive species sticker required with boat registrations. This is a very timely issue to address within the region and appropriate information and education are the most critical components in controlling the spread of invasive species into North Idaho waters.

The plan as drafted is concise and appropriately addresses pertinent components of the relicensing for FERC Project No. 2545.

Please contact Brian White at (208) 769-5031 regarding issues pertinent to this Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Pavlat', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kurt Pavlat
Acting Field Manager

U.S. Bureau of Land Management Comments and Avista's Responses

Comment: The annual BLM Eagle Watch is a major educational and interpretive event for our field office. It has been conducted for the last eighteen years in late December at our Mineral Ridge boat Launch and Mineral Ridge Scenic Area, and has drawn visitors from around the nation and world. The BLM sets up a travel trailer, interpretive displays, mounted raptor specimens, and high-powered spotting scopes for the public to enjoy during the event. The BLM will continue to utilize funding from its independent relicensing Agreement with Avista to improve public experiences at this event which supports the bald eagle component of the Plan.

Avista Response: *We look forward to working with the BLM through our side agreement as they implement this project.*

Comment: Our wildlife biologists, Carrie Hugo, recommended some specific edits to the Bald Eagle section of the Plan on p. 5 as follows. Please add italicized /bolded text.

- 1."Eat fish, waterfowl, and small to medium mammals. Kill prey with their talons and use their beaks for tearing flesh, ***and also scavenge.***"
2. "Often mate for life. The females lay eggs in the spring and after 35 days chicks hatch. If more than one is hatched, usually only the chick that is more aggressive and takes most of the food survives. ***When food is abundant, both chicks will often survive.*** At 15 weeks of age, the young permanently leaves the nest"

Avista Response: *The requested language has been added to the bald eagle section of the plan.*

Comment: Ms. Hugo is interested in reviewing the Bald Eagle Management Plan that will be produced as part of the Project.

Avista Response: *Avista was required to submit the Plan to USFWS, IDFG and WDFW for review and comment, then submit it to FERC for approval. As such, we have already submitted it, however would be more than happy to share it once we get it back from FERC.*

Comment: The BLM will also be supporting the Fisheries section of the plan at the Huckleberry campground upriver from the St. Joe by continuing to provide angler and fishery information to the public there. Although the campground is removed from the Project, there are inherent ecological links between recreational fishing activity and fishery health at all points along the river system. Huckleberry campground serves as a starting point for many fishermen using the St. Joe river system, and annually sees over 17,000 visitors. BLM will continue to provide fisheries information at the kiosks at the site which will improve public identification of sensitive/threatened native species as well as giving them a better understanding of fisheries theme within the Plan.

Avista Response: *We look forward to working with the BLM through our side agreement as they implement this project.*

Comment: I recommend Measure #1 in the water quality section (p.10 -11) be moved up to 2011 from 2012 due to the level of publicity devoted to this issue and public confusion regarding

the new invasive species sticker required with boat registrations. This is a very timely issue to address within the region and appropriate information and education are the most critical components in controlling the spread of invasive species in to North Idaho waters.

Avista Response: Measure #1's implementation date will be moved to 2011 as requested. Please note, this measure focuses on invasive aquatic weeds and is not an educational measure for the State of Idaho Department of Agriculture's Boat registration inspection program.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



April 15, 2010

Mark Miller
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
11103 E. Montgomery Drive, Suite 2
Spokane, WA 99206

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, FERC Project No. 2545; License Article 416 Spokane River Developments Recreation Plan, and License Article 417 Post Falls Development Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. Miller:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project (Spokane River Project), FERC Project No. 2545. The License contains two articles related to the development of recreation plans. Article 416 requires a recreation plan for enhancements at the Upper Falls, Monroe Street, Nine Mile, and Long Lake Hydroelectric Developments (HEDs). Article 417 requires a recreation plan for enhancements at the Post Falls HED.

The enclosed draft Spokane River Project Recreation Plan (Plan) was developed in accordance with Articles 416 and 417 to address input from the Recreation, Land Use and Aesthetics Work Group during Avista's relicensing process. The intent of Plan is to meet License requirements, facilitate a Project-wide approach to recreation planning, and provide FERC, Avista, and its stakeholders with one primary point-of-reference for recreation resource enhancements.

The two License articles require consultation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office during the development of the enclosed Plan. Though not required by the License, we are also asking the Post Falls Parks and Recreation Department, Kootenai County Parks and Waterways, and the U.S. Forest Service for comments on the Plan because it includes recreation enhancements that will be completed in cooperation with them.

With this, please review and provide any comments or recommendations on the draft Plan to me by May 16, 2010. After consultation, we are required to submit the Plan to FERC for approval.

If you have any questions regarding the Plan, feel free to call me at (509) 495-4998.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Speed Fitzhugh".

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

*Eastern Washington Field Office
11103 East Montgomery Drive
Spokane, Washington 99206*

May 11, 2010

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager
Avista Utilities
1411 E. Mission Ave
Spokane, WA 99252

Subject: Spokane River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2545), Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan (FERC Article No. 418), Reference No. 14420-2010-CPA-0010 (File No. 503.0005)

Dear Mr. Fitzhugh:

This letter comprises the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) response to your April 13, 2010, letter and attached Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan (Plan) pertaining to Avista's Spokane River Hydroelectric Project (Project) in Idaho and Washington. The Plan dated April 2010, was prepared by Avista by to comply with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) License Article No. 418.

We are providing the following comments and recommendations for your consideration during the preparation of the final Plan.

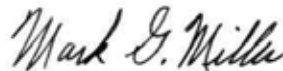
1. Page 5, I&E Themes and Implementation Measures, Bald Eagles, Bald Eagle Viewing and Current Management Activities, Bullet 2: *"Minimize noise and other human disturbance."* To provide additional information to the viewing public, we recommend that you modify this statement in the following manner. *"Minimize noise and other human disturbance especially during bald eagle nesting season which generally occurs between late winter and early summer each year."*
2. Page 6, I&E Themes and Implementation Measures, Bald Eagles, I&E Implementation (Table). We recommend that you place additional information signage at the Long Lake HED, due to the occurrence of incidents where bald eagles have been disturbed and/or injured in that area.

In addition, the Service has or intends to submit comments on the following License Articles directly related to the subject Plan:

- FERC Article 408, Spokane River Trout Public Education and Outreach. By letter dated May 11, 2010, the Service indicated it would defer to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to assist Avista in implementing this License Article. This is based on the experience and ongoing efforts of these two resource managers implementing similar fish and wildlife resource information and education programs.
- FERC Article 409, Coeur d'Alene Lake Fisheries Public Education and Outreach: By letter dated March 26, 2010, the Service indicated it will defer to the IDFG to assist Avista in implementing this License Article. This is based on experience and ongoing efforts of IDFG implementing similar fish and wildlife resource information and education programs.
- FERC Article 410, Coeur d'Alene Lake Aquatic Weed Management for Non-tribal Waters: The Service intends to provide comments and recommendations on this License Article in a subsequent letter.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and recommendations on the subject Plan. We look forward to working with your staff to implement the Plan during the course of the new license. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Donaldson of our Spokane Office at 509-893-8009.

Sincerely,



Assistant Project Leader

cc:

IDFG, CdA (Corsi)
WDFW, Spokane (Robison)

U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Comments and Avista's Responses

Comment: Page 5, I &E Themes and Implementation Measures, Bald Eagles, Bald Eagle Viewing and Current Management Activities Bullet 2: “Minimize noise and other human disturbance.” To provide additional information to the viewing public, we recommend that you modify this statement in the following manner. **“Minimize noise and other human disturbance especially during bald eagle nesting season which generally occurs between late winter and early summer each year.”**

Avista Response: The I & E Plan has been modified to include the request.

Comment: Page 6, I & E Themes and Implementation Measures, Bald Eagles, I & E Implementation (Table). We recommend that you place additional information signage at the Long Lake HED, due to the occurrence of incidents where bald eagles have been disturbed and/or injured in that area.

Avista Response: Additional bald eagle interpretive signs will be placed at the Nine Mile Recreation Area (previously Nine Mile Resort) and at the Long Lake Dam Picnic Area.

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation



April 13, 2010

David White
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
North Region Service Center
2885 Kathleen Ave., Suite 1
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, (FERC Project No. 2545) License Article 418 Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan

Dear David:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2545. Article 418 of the License directs Avista to develop and implement a Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan.

The enclosed draft Spokane River Interpretation and Education (Plan) was developed in accordance with Article 418. The intent of the Plan is to meet License requirements, facilitate a Project-wide approach to interpretation and education, and provide FERC, Avista, and its stakeholders with one primary point-of-reference for Project related interpretation and education measures.

The FERC License requires Avista to consult with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Washington State Historic Preservation Office, during the development of the enclosed Plan. Though not required by the License, we are also asking the Post Falls Parks and Recreation Department, Kootenai County Parks and Waterways, and the U.S. Forest Service for comments on the Plan because it includes efforts that will involve them.

With this, please review and provide any comments or recommendations on the draft Plan to me by May 13, 2010. After consultation, we are required to submit the Plan to FERC for approval. If you have any questions regarding the Plan, feel free to call me at (509) 495-4998, or Rene' Wiley at (509) 495-2919.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Speed Fitzhugh". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name of the sender.

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosures



C. L. "Butch" Otter
governor

Nancy C. Merrill
director

David M. Ricks
deputy director

.....
IDAHO PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
.....

Steve Klatt
region one

Randal F. Rice
region two

Ernest J. Lombard
region three

Latham Williams
region four

Jean S. McDevitt
region five

Douglas A. Hancey
region six

.....
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
.....

north region service center
2885 kathleen avenue- suite #1
coeur d'alene, idaho 83815

(208) 769-1511

fax (208) 769-1418

www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov

May 10, 2010

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager
AVISTA Utilities
1411 East Mission MSC-1
P.O. Box 3727
Spokane, WA. 99220-3727



Dear Speed,

As requested in your letters dated April 13 and 15, 2010, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) reviewed both the Spokane River Draft Recreation Plan and the Spokane River Draft I&E Plan. Both documents address all items identified in the following settlement agreement – Agreement Concerning Recreational Sites on Lands Owned or Administered by the Idaho Department of Park and Recreation, or by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Within or Adjacent to the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project. Consequently, IDPR does not have any comments or recommendations on either of the plans.

If you need additional information, please let me know.

Thanks for the opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,

David E. White
North Region Manager

Cc: David Ricks, Deputy Director
Randall Butt, Farragut/CdA Parkway State Park Manager
Ron Hise, Heyburn State Park Manager

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Comments and Avista's Responses

Comment: As requested in your letters dated April 13 and 15, 2010, The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) reviewed both the Spokane River Draft Recreation Plan and the Spokane River Draft I & E Plan. Both documents address all items identified in the following settlement agreement – Agreement Concerning Recreational Sites on Lands Owned or Administered by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, or by the Idaho Fish and Game Within or Adjacent to the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project. Consequently, IDPR does not have any comments or recommendations on either of the plans.

Avista Response: We appreciate the positive relationship that we have with IDPR and look forward to working with IDPR in the future.

The following agencies did not submit comments to the Plan:

- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State Historic Preservation Office
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- U.S. Forest Service
- Kootenai County Parks and Recreation
- Post Falls Parks and Recreation Department

Washington Department of Natural Resources



April 13, 2010

Brett Walker
Department of Natural Resources
225 S. Silke Road
Colville, WA 99114

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, (FERC Project No. 2545) License Article 418 Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan

Dear Brett:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2545. Article 418 of the License directs Avista to develop and implement a Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan.

The enclosed draft Spokane River Interpretation and Education (Plan) was developed in accordance with Article 418. The intent of the Plan is to meet License requirements, facilitate a Project-wide approach to interpretation and education, and provide FERC, Avista, and its stakeholders with one primary point-of-reference for Project related interpretation and education measures.

The FERC License requires Avista to consult with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Washington State Historic Preservation Office, during the development of the enclosed Plan. Though not required by the License, we are also asking the Post Falls Parks and Recreation Department, Kootenai County Parks and Waterways, and the U.S. Forest Service for comments on the Plan because it includes efforts that will involve them.

With this, please review and provide any comments or recommendations on the draft Plan to me by May 13, 2010. After consultation, we are required to submit the Plan to FERC for approval. If you have any questions regarding the Plan, feel free to call me at (509) 495-4998, or Rene' Wiley at (509) 495-2919.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Speed Fitzhugh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the sender.

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosures

Washington State Historic Preservation Office



April 13, 2010

Rob Whitlam
Washington State Historic Preservation Office
1063 South Capitol Way
Suite 106
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, (FERC Project No. 2545) License Article 418 Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan

Dear Rob:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2545. Article 418 of the License directs Avista to develop and implement a Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Speed Fitzhugh".

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosures

Idaho Department of Fish and Game



April 13, 2010

Bryan Helmich
Idaho Fish & Game
2885 W. Kathleen Ave.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, (FERC Project No. 2545) License Article 418 Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan

Dear Bryan:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2545. Article 418 of the License directs Avista to develop and implement a Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Speed Fitzhugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosures

U.S. Forest Service



April 13, 2010

Claire Pitner
US Forest Service
Forest Supervisor's Office
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815-8363

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, (FERC Project No. 2545) License Article 418 Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan

Dear Claire:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2545. Article 418 of the License directs Avista to develop and implement a Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Speed Fitzhugh".

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosures



April 13, 2010

Kent Wellner
US Forest Service
Forest Supervisor's Office
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815-8363

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, (FERC Project No. 2545) License Article 418 Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan

Dear Kent:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2545. Article 418 of the License directs Avista to develop and implement a Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan.

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Sincerely,

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosures

Kootenai County Parks and Waterways



April 13, 2010

Nick Snyder
Kootenai County Parks and Waterways
10905 N. Ramsey Road
Hayden, ID 83835

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, (FERC Project No. 2545) License Article 418 Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan

Dear Nick:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2545. Article 418 of the License directs Avista to develop and implement a Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Speed Fitzhugh".

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosures

Post Falls Parks and Recreation



April 13, 2010

Dave Fair
Post Falls Parks and Recreation
408 N. Spokane St.
Post Falls, ID 83854

RE: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Spokane River Project, (FERC Project No. 2545) License Article 418 Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan

Dear Dave:

On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2545. Article 418 of the License directs Avista to develop and implement a Spokane River Interpretation and Education Plan.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Speed Fitzhugh".

Elvin "Speed" Fitzhugh
Spokane River License Manager

Enclosures