

# Appendix I

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## Public Involvement

**Puyallup River Basin  
Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study**



Department of the Army  
Seattle District, US Army Corps of Engineers

March 2016

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## **Public Involvement Appendix**

### **Contents**

- I-1 2011 Federal Register Notice of Intent
- I-2 Public Scoping Meeting Summary Report
- I-3 Communication with Tribes
- I-4 FEMA Cooperating Agency Letter

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# Appendix I-1

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## Public Involvement

2011 Federal Register Notice of Intent

**Puyallup River Basin  
Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study**

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to voice their opinions on the LEDPA decision.

The DEIS is available on the COE Web site at: <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Wetlands/Projects/HampsteadBypass> and also available on the NCDOT Web site at: <http://www.ncdot.org/projects/US17HampsteadBypass/>. Any person having difficulty in viewing the document online can contact the COE project manager or the NCDOT project manager for a CD copy of the document.

After distribution and review of the Draft EIS and Final EIS, the Applicant understands that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in coordination with the North Carolina Department of Transportation will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) for the project. The ROD will document the completion of the EIS process and will serve as a basis for permitting decisions by Federal and State agencies.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the address provided. The Wilmington District will periodically issue Public Notices soliciting public and agency comment on the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action as they are developed.

Dated: September 15, 2011.

**S. Kenneth Jolly,**

*Chief, Wilmington Regulatory District.*

[FR Doc. 2011-24485 Filed 9-22-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Puyallup River General Investigation Study, Pierce County, WA

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for a proposed flood-risk management project in the Puyallup River Basin including the Puyallup River downstream of Electron Dam to

Commencement Bay, the Carbon River and the White River downstream of Mud Mountain Dam. This study was requested by Pierce County (the local sponsor), Washington, because of the potential for significant flooding within the Puyallup River Basin.

A DEIS is being prepared because of the potential for impacts on environmental resources, particularly salmonid habitat, and the intense public interest already demonstrated in addressing the flooding problems of the Puyallup, Carbon and White Rivers.

The Puyallup River General Investigation (GI) DEIS for the Puyallup River Basin is being conducted under the authority of Section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 1962, Public Law 87-874. That section authorized a comprehensive study of Puget Sound, Washington, and adjacent waters including tributaries, in the interest of flood control, navigation, and other water uses and related land resources.

**DATES:** Persons or organizations wishing to submit study scoping comments should do so by October 24, 2011. Public comment may also be made at the study scoping meeting October 6, 2011 in Fife, Washington (see Scoping Meeting). Notification of scoping meeting times and locations will be sent to all agencies, organizations, and individuals on the project mailing list.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments on the proposed project, requests for inclusion on the mailing list and future documents should be sent to: Amanda Ogden, Study Environmental Coordinator, Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. 3755, Seattle, WA 98124-3755, *Attn:* CENWS-PM-ER; telephone (206) 764-3628; fax (206) 764-4467; or e-mail [Amanda.Ogden@usace.army.mil](mailto:Amanda.Ogden@usace.army.mil).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

General questions concerning the proposed action and the DEIS can be directed to: Amanda Ogden, Study Environmental Coordinator (see **ADDRESSES**) or C.J. Klocow, Project Manager, Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. 3755, Seattle, WA 98124-3755, *Attn:* CENWS-PM-CP; telephone (206) 764-6073; fax (206) 764-4467; or e-mail [Charles.J.Klocow@usace.army.mil](mailto:Charles.J.Klocow@usace.army.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background.** The Puyallup River basin encompasses a drainage area of approximately 1,040 square miles. Major tributaries include the Carbon and White Rivers. The Puyallup, Carbon and White Rivers drain the northern flank of Mount Rainier. The study area for the DEIS will be the Puyallup River

downstream of Electron Dam to Commencement Bay, the Carbon River and the White River downstream of Mud Mountain Dam.

The purpose of the Puyallup River GI study is to better identify the problems and opportunities that exist to relieve the potential for flooding, reduce flood risks and to develop a flood-risk management plan that fits Federal law and policy and is within the capability of the local sponsor to support their required share of the total project costs.

This is a single-purpose flood-risk management study. The goal of this project is to identify the National Economic Development (NED) plan, the flood-risk management alternative that provides the maximum net economic benefits. In accordance with USACE policy, minimization of ecosystem, cultural, and socio-economic impacts will be significant project considerations (Reference: ER 1105-2-100, Planning Guidance Notebook). The local sponsor may request the recommendation of a plan other than the NED, the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP).

**Alternatives.** In the reconnaissance phase for the Puyallup River GI study, USACE identified two alternative courses of action for further analysis which are outlined below.

**Alternative 1—No Action:** Allow the current levee system to remain in place without a major system-wide levee system upgrade. Individual jurisdictions would continue to operate, maintain, and repair the existing levees, and dams on the Puyallup River and White River would continue present operations for flood reduction.

**Alternative 2:** Construct a coordinated flood-risk management project that would provide critically needed flood-risk management measures at an affordable cost in a reasonable timeframe and that will subsequently be authorized and implemented.

Pierce County and USACE are in the process of developing an array of structural and nonstructural measures for addressing problems and opportunities and for achieving project objectives. These measures will be presented to the public at several workshops in Pierce County and to resource and Tribal groups and agencies over the course of project development.

Some or all of the measures will be combined to form the range of alternatives. In the DEIS, the preferred alternative will be selected based on screening and evaluation of the range of alternatives.

**Scoping.** Public involvement will be sought during scoping, plan formulation, and preparation of the

DEIS in accordance with NEPA procedures. A public scoping process has been started: (1) To clarify which issues appear to be major public concerns, (2) to identify any information sources that might be available to analyze and evaluate impacts, and (3) to obtain public input and determine acceptability for the range of measures to be included within potential alternatives.

This NOI formally commences the scoping process under NEPA. As part of the scoping process, all affected Federal, state, and local agencies; Tribes; the public; and other interested private organizations, including environmental groups, are invited to comment on the scope of the DEIS. Comments are requested regarding issues of concern, project alternatives, potential mitigation measures, probable significant environmental impacts, and permits or other approvals that may be required by any project.

The following key areas have been identified so far to be analyzed in depth in the DEIS:

1. Flooding characteristics (existing and with any project).
2. Impacts to fish habitat and fisheries resources.
3. Impacts to riparian habitat.
4. Impacts to wetlands.
5. Impacts to cultural resources.
6. Impacts to surrounding communities.
7. Impacts to geomorphic processes.

**Scoping Meeting.** Opportunity to comment on the planned study will also be available at the study scoping meeting which is scheduled for October 6, 2011 at the Fife Community Center, 2111 54th Avenue East, Fife, WA, 98424. The scoping meeting will commence at 4 p.m. with an open house, followed by presentations and a formal hearing at 5:30 pm. Details of the meeting time and location will be announced in the local media. Notices will be sent to all agencies, organizations, and individuals on the mailing list.

**Availability of DEIS.** USACE expects to complete preparation of the DEIS and make it available for public review by the fall of 2013.

Dated: September 15, 2011.

**Bruce A. Estok,**  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District  
Commander.

[FR Doc. 2011-24484 Filed 9-22-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

RIN 1894-AA01

### Race to the Top Fund Phase 3; Correction

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Proposed Requirements;  
Correction.

**SUMMARY:** On September 12, 2011, the Secretary of Education (Secretary) published a notice in the **Federal Register** proposing requirements for Phase 3 of the Race to the Top program (RTT-Phase 3 NPR) (76 FR 56183). The RTT-Phase 3 NPR was incomplete and included minor errors. Through this document, we correct the errors and add the information that was unintentionally omitted. Except as corrected by this notice, the RTT-Phase 3 NPR, including the date by which public comments are due, remains unchanged.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Meredith Farace, Implementation and Support Unit, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-6200. Telephone: (202) 453-6690 or by e-mail: [phase3comments@ed.gov](mailto:phase3comments@ed.gov).

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We make the following corrections to the RTT-Phase 3 NPR:

On page 56183, third column, under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, we correct the telephone to read "(202) 453-6690."

On page 56184, third column, we correct the paragraph that begins with the words "Under the Race to the Top Phase 3 award process proposed in this notice, eligible applicants" by replacing it with the following two paragraphs:

Additionally, the Department will maintain an emphasis in the Race to the Top Phase 3 awards on promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, consistent with the competitive preference priority in the Race to the Top Phase 1 and Phase 2 competitions. In order to meet this requirement, a State will include in its detailed plan and budget for Phase 3 funding how it will allocate a meaningful share of its Phase 3 award to advance STEM education in the State. To do this, eligible applicants will select from among their Phase 2 application: (1) Activities proposed by the State to meet the competitive preference priority; or (2) activities within one or more of the

four core education reform areas that are most likely to improve STEM education.

Under the Race to the Top Phase 3 award process proposed in this notice, eligible applicants would be limited to Race to the Top Phase 2 finalists that did not receive a Phase 2 award, and those eligible applicants could apply for a proportional share of these funds. Race to the Top Phase 3 funding is not at the level of funding that was available for the Race to the Top Phase 1 and Phase 2 competitions. Accordingly, we are proposing that eligible applicants (1) Select from among the activities they proposed to implement in their Phase 2 applications those activities that will have the greatest impact on advancing their overall statewide reform plans, including activities that are most likely to improve STEM education, (2) use Race to the Top Phase 3 funding to support those specific activities, and (3) ensure that such activities are consistent with the ARRA requirement to allocate 50 percent of Race to the Top funds to local educational agencies (LEAs).

On page 56185, third column, we correct paragraph (g) to read as follows:

(g) The State will select activities for funding that are consistent with the commitment to comprehensive reform and innovation that the State demonstrated in its Race to the Top Phase 2 application, including activities that are most likely to improve STEM education.

On page 56186, first column, we correct the paragraph following the estimated State budget amounts chart to read as follows:

Once the Department notifies a qualified applicant of the final amount of funds it is eligible to receive for a Race to the Top Phase 3 award, the applicant must submit a detailed plan and budget describing the activities it has selected from its Race to the Top Phase 2 application that it proposes to implement with Race to the Top Phase 3 funding, including how the State will allocate a meaningful share of its Phase 3 award to advance STEM education in the State. This detailed plan must include an explanation of why the applicant has selected these activities and why the applicant believes such activities will have the greatest impact on advancing its overall statewide reform plan. The plan also must include a description of the State's process for allocating at least 50 percent of Race to the Top Phase 3 funds to participating LEAs, as required by section 14006(c) of the ARRA. Subgrants to LEAs must be based on their relative shares of funding under Title I, Part A of the ESEA, and LEAs must use these funds in a manner that is consistent with the State's

# Appendix I-2

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## Public Involvement

### Public Scoping Meeting Summary Report

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# Puyallup River Basin General Investigation Study Public Scoping Summary Report

November 2011



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Seattle District

Prepared By:

 **EnviroIssues**

# Table of Contents

<b>Chapter 1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Purpose of Report .....	4
Project Background .....	4
Project Purpose.....	4
Study Area.....	4
Project Alternatives.....	5
National Environmental Policy Act Requirements for Scoping.....	5
Public Involvement Process .....	5
Notice of Intent.....	6
Public Scoping Meeting.....	6
<b>Chapter 2. Public Scoping Comments .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Summary of Comment Statistics.....	8
Comment Categories .....	9
Common Comment Categories.....	10
<i>Alternative selection/analysis.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Aquatic habitat protection and restoration .....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Economic development/risk.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Sediment management.....</i>	<i>11</i>
Comment Analysis .....	11
Categorized Scoping Comments .....	12
Next Steps .....	26

## **Appendices**

- A. NEPA Notice of Intent
- B. Scoping Announcement Postcard
- C. Scoping Announcement E-Newsletter
- D. Scoping Meeting Newspaper Display Ad
- E. NEPA Scoping Brochure
- F. Puyallup River Basin GI Project Information Sheet
- G. Puyallup River Basin GI Project Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- H. Scoping Meeting Comment Form
- I. Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheets
- J. Scoping Meeting Display Boards
- K. Scoping Meeting PowerPoint Presentation
- L. Scoping Meeting Transcript
- M. Scoping Meeting Interactive Problem Areas Map Exercise
- N. Scoping Comments Received

## **Chapter 1. Introduction**

### **Purpose of Report**

The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Pierce County are conducting a General Investigation (GI) Study to address significant flooding events in the Puyallup River Basin and to evaluate potential flood risk management measures in the basin. As part of the study, the Corps and Pierce County are preparing a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess impacts of significant flooding on environmental resources, particularly salmonid habitat. This scoping report describes the public scoping process for the GI Study and summarizes the comments received through that process. Included in this report are a brief project history, project purpose, description of measures being considered, documents related to the scoping process, and verbatim copies of all comments received.

### **Project Background**

The Puyallup River has experienced increasingly frequent and severe flooding over time. The levee system along the Puyallup, Carbon and White Rivers has recently been decertified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and infrastructure upstream from the levee system has also been impacted by the flooding. In 2009, Pierce County provided a Letter of Intent to sponsor a Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study addressing flooding issues throughout the Puyallup River Basin, and participates in a cost sharing agreement for the Feasibility Study with the Corps.

The Puyallup River Basin GI is a basin-wide study that will identify and assess various measures to control and mitigate flooding in the study area. These measures could include levees, sediment management, additional flood storage, modifications to existing dams, and non-structural measures. Problems, opportunities, and objectives will be examined within the context of the entire watershed.

The initial project goals are to:

- Identify flooding problems and risks
- Formulate, evaluate and screen potential solutions
- Determine federal interest in and local entity support for implementing solutions
- Recommend an alternative that is technically viable and economically sound

### **Project Purpose**

The purpose of the Puyallup River Basin GI Study is to identify the problems and opportunities that exist to reduce flood risks within the Puyallup River Basin.

### **Study Area**

The Puyallup River Basin (Basin) covers a drainage area of approximately 1,040 square miles located in western Washington, predominantly in Pierce County. Initially the GI study was focused on the lower eight miles of the Puyallup River. The study was expanded to the entire basin after initial studies showed significant impacts upstream and a wide range of stakeholders voiced their support for a basin-wide

general investigation. The current study area includes the Puyallup River downstream of Electron Dam to Commencement Bay, the Carbon River and the White River downstream of Mud Mountain Dam. Tacoma, Puyallup, Fife, Sumner, Orting, Auburn, and the Puyallup and Muckleshoot Tribes are all communities within the Puyallup River Basin. A map of the study area can be found in Appendix J on one of the scoping meeting boards.

## **Project Alternatives**

The Puyallup River Basin GI is a single-purpose flood risk reduction project. The EIS will evaluate structural and non-structural alternatives for flood risk management as well as a No Action Alternative. Habitat restoration and environmental enhancement are not part of the proposed GI project, though impacts to natural resources will be minimized in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management Act and National Environmental Policy Act.

Alternative 1, a No Action Alternative, would allow the operational support of local jurisdictions and dams on the Puyallup and White Rivers to maintain the current levee system without any major system-wide upgrade.

Alternative 2 is a coordinated flood-risk management project to provide urgently needed, affordable flood-risk management measures. The Corps and Pierce County are considering a number of measures, some or all of which will make up a range of alternatives to be presented to the public in workshops. Structural measures could include setback levees, sediment traps, dredging, and non-structural measures could include flood proofing and education.

## **National Environmental Policy Act Requirements for Scoping**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) emphasizes public involvement in government actions affecting the environment by requiring that the benefits and risks associated with the proposed actions be assessed and publicly disclosed. In accordance with NEPA public involvement requirements, opportunities were presented for the public to provide oral or written comments on potentially affected resources, environmental issues to be considered, and the agency's approach to the analysis. Efforts to involve the public in preparing and implementing NEPA procedures included holding and providing public notice of a NEPA-related public scoping meeting, soliciting appropriate information from the public, and explaining procedures of how interested parties can get information on the NEPA process. A summary of the public involvement activities are provided in this document, including comments received and other underlying documents involved in the public scoping period.

## **Public Involvement Process**

The Corps conducted a public outreach effort as part of scoping, including official notifications, display ads, and the mailing of postcards to the project mailing list, including Skokomish basin landowners.

- A federal **Notice of Intent (NOI)** was published in the Federal Register on September 23, 2011.
- A **postcard** announcing the scoping period and public meeting was:

- Mailed to residents and stakeholders on the Corps project list. Postcards were received approximately two weeks prior to the meeting.
  - Mailed to relevant agency and tribal contacts.
- **Print display advertisements** were placed in the following publications approximately two weeks prior to the meeting:
  - Tacoma News Tribune (9/24/2011)
  - Puyallup Herald (9/28/2011)
- An **electronic newsletter** was e-mailed to relevant agency and tribal contacts for distribution to respective e-mail lists.
- A **single point of contact** was provided on all communication materials.
- Outreach materials included a project **information sheet, comment form** and **frequently asked questions (FAQs) handout**.
- The **public scoping meeting** was held at an accessible and central location in the project area.

## Notice of Intent

NEPA requires that scoping begin with the publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement. The NOI for the Puyallup River General Investigation Study was published in the Federal Register on September 23, 2011 (see Appendix A). The NOI described the project background, project purpose, project alternatives, public involvement effort, scoping meeting details and environmental review coordination efforts. The NOI also started the scoping period that ended on October 24, 2011.

## Public Scoping Meeting

A public scoping meeting was held on Thursday, October 6, 2011 within the project area at Fife Community Center, 2111 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, Fife, WA 98424. An open house ran from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with a presentation and opportunity for formal public comment at 5:30 p.m. The public scoping meeting aimed to provide an overview of the Puyallup River General Investigation Study, identify project purpose and need, identify preliminary measures, and describe the NEPA process.

The public scoping meeting was announced through postcards that were mailed to over 200 contacts, including nearby residents, businesses, agencies and tribes. A copy of the postcard is included in Appendix B. An electronic version of this postcard was distributed to local agencies as an e-newsletter and their corresponding e-mail lists. A copy of this e-newsletter letter is included in Appendix C. In addition, display ads were placed in the Tacoma News Tribune and Puyallup Herald two weeks prior to the meeting. A copy of the display ad is included in Appendix D.

US Army Corps of Engineers and Pierce County staff were available during the open house portion of the public meeting to discuss the project and answer questions. Several handouts were available for meeting attendees including a NEPA Scoping brochure (Appendix E), an information sheet on the project (Appendix F), and a sheet with frequently asked questions and answers about the project (Appendix G). Additionally, a comment form for meeting attendees to provide feedback was available and attendees

were encouraged to leave their comments at the meeting or send the comment form by mail or e-mail to the address or e-mail address provided. A copy of the comment form is provided in Appendix H. Approximately 25 people attended the public scoping meeting. The sign-in sheets are included in Appendix I.

Various display boards were presented at the open house, including a welcome board featuring the event agenda, a description of the project purpose and meeting objectives, an outline of the General Investigation process and project phases, an overview of the NEPA process, a map of the Puyallup River Basin General Investigation study area, and a map illustrating flooding problem areas. Additional displays were provided by Pierce County. Copies of the display boards provided by the Corps are included in Appendix J.

The Corps and Pierce County gave a 45-minute presentation on the Puyallup River Basin GI Study. Olton Swanson, Deputy District Engineer for Project Management with the Corps, welcomed the attendees, introduced the project, and briefly described the project's history. Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive, also welcomed attendees and explained Pierce County's role in the Puyallup River Basin GI Study. Pat introduced Joyce McDonald, Pierce County Councilmember, who underscored the County's commitment to this effort. CJ Klocow, with the Corps, began the presentation with an overview of the study area, Puyallup River Basin problems, and the purpose and goals of the study. CJ described the Corps Six Step Plan Formulation Process, various initial management measures to reduce flood risk and flood damage, and milestones of the Puyallup River Basin GI Study's draft deliverable schedule.

Harold Smelt, Pierce County Surface Water Manager, provided details about the NEPA process and its requirements and steps involved in developing an EIS, including the project's current status. Harold emphasized that input from the public is valuable and encouraged meeting attendees to submit comments by the end of the scoping period, October 24. Harold described the various ways to submit comments, including with comment forms provided at the meeting or by mail, e-mail, or phone, and contact information for submitting comments was provided in the presentation. The PowerPoint presentation given during the meeting is included in Appendix K.

The public hearing portion of the meeting followed the presentation, with four attendees testifying with comments. A court reporter was available to record verbal comments during the scoping meeting and the transcript of the presentation and hearing is included in Appendix L.

## Chapter 2. Public Scoping Comments

### Summary of Comment Statistics

The public scoping period for the Puyallup River Basin General Investigation Study allowed for the public to submit comments in person, through email or by mail. While comments were solicited and received on all aspects of the project during scoping, the comment form posed the following specific questions for consideration:

1. **Do you have any flooding and/or environmental concerns within the Puyallup River Basin? If so, please state your concerns and location of concerns.**
2. **What type of alternatives or solutions would you like to see (or suggest) within the Puyallup River Basin that would reduce flood damages?**
3. **Is there anything additional that should be addressed or considered during this study? Please be specific.**

A total of **13** communications were submitted via the following channels:

- **One** comment form was submitted during the scoping meeting.
- **Six** verbal comments were given during the scoping meeting and recorded by the court reporter.
- **One** comment form was mailed to Amanda Ogden, US Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 3755, Seattle, WA 98124.
- **Five** email communications were emailed to Amanda Ogden at: [amanda.ogden@usace.army.mil](mailto:amanda.ogden@usace.army.mil).

Additionally, during the scoping meeting materials were provided for attendees to mark up the Problem Area Map, with a sign directing them to “help us identify which problem areas matter most to you.”. Four stickers were placed on the map, identifying an area near Riverside County Park in Sumner, an area near Leach Road in Puyallup, an area near Calistoga Street in Orting, and Clarks Creek as problem areas. A note identifying the Clarks Creek area as having “high grnd [sic] water due to high Puyallup River & development,” was attached to the map. See appendix M for results of the marked-up map.

The following organizations submitted comments:

- Pierce County Drainage District 10
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Region 10
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division

## Comment Categories

Each communication may include several comments regarding different elements of the study. These specific comments were analyzed and categorized into themes listed in the table below. A comment, or part of a comment, may fit into more than one category, and thus may be repeated in more than one category. In some cases it is indicated that a comment is out of scope of the study. This means that the specific comment addresses an issue that falls out of the scope of the Puyallup River Basin General Investigation Study. The table below shows the categories in alphabetical order, and the number of received comments per category.

Category Number	Category	Number of Comments
1	Adaptive management and monitoring	1
2	Air quality and emissions	1
3	Alternative selection / analysis	5
4	Aquatic habitat protection and restoration	9
5	Climate change	2
6	Cultural and historic resources	3
7	Cumulative and indirect impacts	1
8	Economic development / risk	5
9	Endangered Species	2
10	Environmental Justice	2
11	Flooding	2
12	Human health and protection	2
13	Mud Mountain Dam*	5
14	NEPA process / EIS	3
15	Non-structural measures	2
16	Project funding and timeline	3
17	River channel maintenance	4
18	Sediment management*	5
19	Structural measures	4
20	Transportation	1
21	Tribal consultation	8
22	Vegetation habitat and management	3
23	Water quality / contamination	3

\*Includes out of scope comments

## **Common Comment Categories**

The categories chosen for comment analysis are those that appeared in four or more comments. The following analysis is a brief summary of the themes and concerns in each of those commonly occurring categories. All of the categorized comments received during the scoping period can be read verbatim following the category analysis. Written comments, as received verbatim, are included in Appendix N.

### ***Alternative selection/analysis***

Numerous comments referred to the alternatives and measures to be analyzed in the study. Comments specifically asked that the study analysis include or address:

- maintenance, replacement, or additional installation of structural flood mitigation measures;
- the utilization of non-structural measures;
- the importance of natural process and habitat restoration;
- the prioritization of environmental benefits and mitigation of environmental impacts;
- channel maintenance and construction;
- sediment management;
- digging or dredging;
- economic development techniques.

Additional comments in this category asked that the GI study consider all feasible measures in its analysis, and to include evaluation techniques to ensure the success of the selected measures. These comments included recommendations for project-specific standards of significance and the “adaptive management and monitoring” category.

### ***Aquatic habitat protection and restoration***

Comments ranged from recognizing adverse impacts of existing structural flood mitigation measures on aquatic habitat, to requesting prioritization of future flood-risk mitigation techniques that provide aquatic habitat restoration. The importance of healthy aquatic habitat was cited to have biological, water quality, economic, and cultural significance to the Puyallup River Basin and its residents.

### ***Economic development/risk***

Potential economic development opportunities resulting from flood-risk mitigation included job creation, rising property values, investment opportunity, and an increase in residential population. One comment noted the potential economic benefit from purchasing real estate from property owners in the flood-prone riparian zone. Another comment discussed concerns for protection of certain existing buildings and residents.

### ***Mud Mountain Dam***

Several comments mentioned the Mud Mountain Dam as a topic to be addressed in the study. Comments discussed harms to and potential impacts on aquatic and vegetative habitat, risks involved with the dam’s operations, and the benefits it offers to the community.

### ***River channel maintenance***

Comments mentioning river channel maintenance tended to identify specific alternatives for flood-risk mitigation, ranging from dredging to construction of a channel between Puyallup and Mud Mountain Dam.

### ***Sediment management***

Comments suggested sediment management as a potential alternative for flood-risk management in the Puyallup River Basin. Many comments noted sediment concerns, including soil composition, buildup, high levels of aggradation, and increased localized deposition of sediment. Comments explain that these concerns harmfully impact aquatic species, vegetation, and flooding, and any future sediment management methods should minimize any environmental effects.

### ***Structural measures***

While there was a wide range of suggested structural measures, many comments included various structural measures to mitigate flood risk. Suggestions included construction and maintenance of drain pipes, drain ports, tide gates, pumping, flood walls, and levees.

### ***Tribal consultation***

The topic of Tribal consultation throughout the EIS process was discussed in many comments. EPA's comments mention the legal requirements for government-to-government Tribal consultation. Additionally, they discuss issues of respecting the Tribes' cultural, environmental, and economic concerns, including hunting, fishing, and gathering areas. The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division asked for close collaboration with the Corps throughout the NEPA process.

## **Comment Analysis**

Frequent flooding and the degradation of natural ecosystem habitat have been identified as problems in the Puyallup River Basin. Based on the project purpose, goals and objectives, the scope of the study is to determine existing flooding problems and risks, and identify and evaluate potential measures to mitigate flood-risk. Comments indicate that the community is interested in various opportunities to reduce flood-risks to alleviate existing and minimize future environmental impacts.

A large number of comments received addressed issues directly related to flood-risk management, including comments related to flooding, river channel capacity, sediment management, and water quality issues. Residents are specifically concerned about the impact of frequent flooding on residents and their properties, natural habitat, and sediment buildup in the region. Causes of flooding mentioned in comments were increased rainfall, deteriorating or weak mitigation structures, lack of drainage, and heavy run-off. Comments suggest that reduced flooding would improve quality of life in the region and ultimately improve the economic condition of the basin. Commenters suggested the Puyallup River Basin General Investigation Study should focus on implementing solutions to alleviate flooding with minimal environmental impacts.

Ecosystem restoration was also a common theme in comments received during the scoping period. Comments acknowledged that the problems facing the Puyallup River Basin have had negative effects

on aquatic habitat and species, including endangered salmon. Comments specifically noted that frequent flooding and sediment buildup contribute to poor water quality, negatively affecting certain fish and plant species. Comments encouraged a variety of structural and non-structural measures to improve habitat, as well as to reduce flooding. Comments indicated the Puyallup River Basin General Investigation Study should focus on designing ecosystem restoration measures to address water quality, sediment management, and river channel restoration to provide benefits to the overall health of the Puyallup River Basin aquatic ecosystem.

Some comments received were beyond the purpose of the project, or out of scope, as mentioned in the table on page 9. Comments identified as out of scope included comments related to implementation of an emergency notification system at Mud Mountain Dam, potential for Mud Mountain Dam failure, and a requested wetland delineation at a former yeast plant in Sumner.

### Categorized Scoping Comments

The categorized comments below were received from September 30 – October 24, 2011, and are presented verbatim as received.

Category	Comment	Author
Adaptive management and monitoring	We recommend that the EIS describe the potential environmental benefits of a formal Adaptive Management Plan. Such a plan should be designed to ensure the success of mitigation measures and to provide management flexibility to incorporate new research and information. We recommend that the Adaptive Management Plan include a timeline for periodic reviews and adjustments, as well as a mechanism to consider and implement additional mitigation measures, as necessary, after the project is developed. Monitoring and evaluation should be used to determine if management actions are achieving objectives. ... The EIS should describe how the action alternatives would achieve consistency with key mitigation and monitoring requirements from 32 CFR Part 651.15(b) and ER 1105-2-100.	Erik Peterson, EPA
Air quality and emissions	The EIS should contain an analysis of emissions from construction, vehicle use, and equipment use, including estimated mitigated annual emissions. Emissions associated with on-site generation of electricity during construction should be included in this analysis. The EPA supports incorporating mitigation strategies to minimize fugitive dust and toxic emissions, as well as emission controls for particulate matter (PM) and ozone precursors for construction-related activity. We recommend that best management practices, all applicable requirements under local or State rules, and the following additional measures be incorporated into the EIS, a Construction Emissions Mitigation Plan, and the Record of Decision. See EPA's Clean Construction USA website for additional information.	Erik Peterson, EPA
Alternative selection / analysis	...we note our strong support for actions that restore natural processes and specifically recommend that you consider an EIS alternative which maximizes opportunities to restore natural hydrologic, geomorphic, and, biological	Erik Peterson, EPA

Category	Comment	Author
	processes.	
Alternative selection / analysis	The EIS should include a range of reasonable alternatives that meet the stated purpose and need for the project and that are responsive to the issues identified during the scoping process and to any identified goals and objectives. The analysis of alternatives in the EIS should compare the alternatives with respect to how well they respond to the stated need, issues, goals and objectives. ... The Council on Environmental Quality recommends that all reasonable alternatives be considered, even if some of them could be outside the capability of the applicant or the jurisdiction of the agency preparing the EIS for the proposed project. The EPA encourages selection of feasible alternatives that would (1) be environmentally sustainable, (2) maximize environmental benefits, and (3) avoid, minimize, and/or otherwise mitigate environmental impacts.	Erik Peterson, EPA
Alternative selection / analysis	In order to facilitate a full and fair discussion on significant environmental issues, we recommend you consider developing and disclosing project specific standards of significance. The U.S. Department of Energy and Western Area Power Administration July 2010 DEIS on the Grapevine Canyon Wind Project provides a conceptual- and generally substantive - example... We believe this style of disclosure - direct linkages to standards of significance - may help to ensure that this Project's NEPA document sharply defines all of the issues by focusing on a full and fair discussion of potential significant adverse environmental impacts.	Erik Peterson, EPA
Alternative selection / analysis	The U.S. Geological Survey (2011) has undertaken work to assess sediment input to the river systems draining Mount Rainier, noting that high rates of aggradation have resulted on selected reaches of the Carbon, Nisqually, White, and Puyallup Rivers, yielding potential for increased channel migration and reduced flood-carrying capacity. This work should be considered in the analysis of project alternatives for floodrisk management in the Puyallup River basin.	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division
Alternative selection / analysis	... while we are looking at all the different options or the Army Corps is looking at all the different options, whether setback levees or improving our levees or other channel migration zones, they also -- The sediment management question is a very, very big issue for them. And we understand that we want to do it with having the least environmental negative impact. But we do want to look at that, because we have some serious buildup of sediment along the river that people look at it, and whether it's part of it, a small part of it, the perception is that it's a big part of the river's flooding problems. And so I would like to make sure that that is something that is kept in the forefront. Whether it's to find a good plan to take care of it or whether it's to dismiss it as really a small part of the problem, I'd like to see that addressed fully.	Joyce McDonald, Pierce County Councilmember
Aquatic habitat protection and restoration	Consider implementing watershed or aquatic habitat restoration activities to compensate for past impacts to water resources, particularly in watersheds with 303(d) listed waters where development may have contributed to impairments through past channelization, riverine or floodplain encroachments, sediment	Erik Peterson, EPA

Category	Comment	Author
	<p>delivery during construction, and other activities that may have affected channel stability, water quality, aquatic habitat, and designated waterbody uses. Provisions for antidegradation of water quality apply to water bodies where water quality standards are presently being met.</p>	
Aquatic habitat protection and restoration	<p>The Puyallup River basin supports fisheries resources that have cultural and economic importance to the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe. Chinook, coho, chum, and pink salmon, as well as, steelhead and other trout utilize portions of the basin for spawning, rearing, holding, and migration.</p>	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division
Aquatic habitat protection and restoration	<p>The DEIS should also consider reports that describe or analyze historical conditions of channels, floodplains, habitats, and flooding within the study area (e.g., Ober, 1898; Chittenden, 1907; Roberts, 1920; Collins and Sheikh, 2004a; and, Collins and Sheikh, 2004b) in effort to identify effective mitigation models for project impacts to fish and fish habitat. This is important because extensive portions of the project area (e.g., White and Puyallup rivers below Mud Mountain dam) are chiefly engineered entities dissociated from their earlier flow regime and channel form. Consequently, effective mitigation for project impacts to fish habitat is more likely to result from work to restore diminished historical habitat elements (e.g., off-channel wetlands for flood storage), rather than replication of current habitat conditions impacted by the project work (e.g., replacement of disturbed levee vegetation with willow stakes).</p>	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division
Aquatic habitat protection and restoration	<p>The Mud Mountain Dam was authorized to prevent flood damages in the Puyallup River valley below the mouth of the White River. In doing so, it has adversely affected fish and fish habitat in the lower 29.6 miles of the White River by creating an anadromous fish passage barrier; disrupting the natural delivery of sediments by impounding fine sediments during high flow and/or high load periods and discharging those same sediments for persistent and prolonged periods during lower river flows which increases localized deposition; capturing wood that would otherwise transport downstream, which is removed as part of dam operations; and facilitating development on the floodplain that results in further habitat degradation from reduced floodwater storage, bank hardening, river channelization, riparian vegetation removal and wood removal from the river (WRIA 10 Limiting Factors Report, WA Conservation Commission, 1999). The dam also alters downstream river flows in the river during flood control and maintenance operations that potentially impact salmon habitat through redd exposure and/or fish trapping and stranding.</p>	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division
Aquatic habitat protection and restoration	<p>If the DEIS analyzes any alternatives requiring operational or structural changes to Mud Mountain Dam, it should discretely analyze associated impacts to the aquatic ecology of the White River below the dam, and propose specific mitigation within the lower White river basin to mitigate those impacts.</p>	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division

Category	Comment	Author
Aquatic habitat protection and restoration	To this end, I believe the most important project the Army Corps could do is help efforts (it was mentioned Pierce County is already doing this to some extent) to get current and future development out of the floodway. Obviously this will cost alot of money to purchase river buffer but in the long run it prevents damage and even addresses the critical habitat needs of ESA listed fish if the Army Corps will realize that indeed tree roots make excellent bank stabilization.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Aquatic habitat protection and restoration	Preventing any breach of sewage into the river also assists ESA listed fish.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Aquatic habitat protection and restoration	As a natural resources major, I understand that LWD is essential not only for critical fish habitat but logs are like sponges and hold tons of water: their presence in rivers should be desired. Same goes for living trees next to the river: critical fish habitat, root bank stabilization AND their leaves and needles store rainwater.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Aquatic habitat protection and restoration	As part of the GI Study, I think a priority should be made in identifying unmapped wetlands in the GI Study Area, for the Army Corps jurisdictional map. At worst this would give the Army Corps more permit fees when application is made to fill wetlands. At best the Army Corps will have more natural and beneficial flood control as it is established by fact that wetlands are natural flood storage along with other natural benefits such as wildlife habitat and natural water purification. It has come to my recent attention via satellite imagery, verbal recall of hydrolic conditions by descendants of the original property owner/farmer, casual observances and educated opinion that there are wetlands and high groundwater currently on the site of the former Yeast Plant in town at 1115 Zehnder Street, Sumner, WA.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Climate change	... Effects of climate change particularly relevant for this project includes changes in hydrology (including sea level rise) weather patterns, and, precipitation rates. Accounting for these effects will require adaptation ... We recommend that the EIS describe whether or not and how climate change considerations have influenced decisions (e.g., Project Design Features, mitigation measures, Alternatives development etc.) We are especially interested in your efforts to account for predicted changes in hydrology and sea level rise. Addressing these potential climate change effects appears to be a key part of ensuring that flood management actions minimize risk and maximize benefits from the Puyallup River's dynamic processes.	Erik Peterson, EPA

Category	Comment	Author
Climate change	<p>The DEIS should also discuss project alternatives in relation to climate change mitigation strategies, for example, how is sediment loading to the White River projected to change given continued glacial recession, higher snowpack elevations, as well as, trends in extreme precipitation events.</p>	<p>Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division</p>
Cultural and historic resources	<p>The EPA recommends that lead agencies consult with the potentially affected tribes specific to their interests and concerns. Among the issues that in our experience are often of concern to tribes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reservation lands.</li> <li>• Formally identified trust and treaty resources.</li> <li>• Grave and burial sites.</li> <li>• Off-reservation sacred sites.</li> <li>• Traditional cultural properties or landscapes.</li> <li>• Hunting, fishing, and gathering areas (including impacts to ecosystems that support animals and plants that are or once were part of the Tribes and tribal descendants' traditional resource areas).</li> <li>• Access to traditional and current hunting, fishing and gathering areas and species.</li> <li>• Changes in hydrology or ecological composition of springs, seeps, wetlands and streams, that could be considered sacred or have traditional resource use associations.</li> <li>• Water quality in streams, springs, wetlands and aquifers.</li> <li>• Travel routes that were historically used, and travel routes that may be currently used.</li> <li>• Historic properties and other cultural resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Erik Peterson, EPA</p>
Cultural and historic resources	<p>Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800) outlines specific procedures to be used in examining potential impacts on historic places. These procedures should be carefully followed in the course of any NEPA analysis, but agencies must be careful not to allow attention to Section 106 review to cause analysts to give insufficient consideration to other kinds of cultural resources. Not all cultural resources are "historic properties" as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (that is, places included in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places); hence they cannot all be addressed through Section 106 review, but this does not mean that they do not need to be addressed under NEPA. The EPA recommends that no Finding of No Significant Impact or Record of Decision be completed until the processes of consultation, analysis, review and documentation required by Section 106 of NHPA have been fully completed. If adverse effects to historic properties are identified, any Memorandum of Agreement developed to resolve these concerns under Section 106 of NHPA should be referenced in the ROD.</p>	<p>Erik Peterson, EPA</p>
Cultural and historic	<p>In all cases, efforts must be made to respect tribal cultural interests, values, and modes of expression, and to overcome language, economic, and other barriers to</p>	<p>Erik Peterson, EPA</p>

<b>Category</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Author</b>
resources	tribal participation.	
Cumulative and indirect impacts	<p>The EPA has issued guidance on how we are to provide comments on the assessment of cumulative impacts, Consideration of Cumulative Impacts in EPA Review of NEPA Documents. II The guidance states that in order to assess the adequacy of the cumulative impacts assessment, five key areas should be considered. In our review of the DEIS we will assess whether the cumulative effects' analysis adequately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies resources, if any, that are being cumulatively impacted.</li> <li>• Determines the appropriate geographic (within natural ecological boundaries) area and the time period over which the effects have occurred and will occur.</li> <li>• Looks at all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions that have affected, are affecting, or would affect resources of concern.</li> <li>• Describes a benchmark or baseline.</li> <li>• Includes scientifically defensible threshold levels.</li> </ul>	Erik Peterson, EPA
Economic development / risk	Proper River MGMT./Maint. is needed. Without that, there is no reason to live, work or invest in the area.	Steve Schenk
Economic development / risk	As per the public scoping meeting on Oct 6, 2011, it seemed a desire for long term economic risk reduction was stressed. To this end, I believe the most important project the Army Corps could do is help efforts (it was mentioned Pierce County is already doing this to some extent) to get current and future development out of the floodway.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Economic development / risk	Finally, as a very long term solution to the trucking of fish I think a channel diversion that runs from the Puyallup to before Mud Mt Dam is feasible. Expensive yes. But long term. It would be a huge public works type project that would create jobs.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Economic development / risk	I think that right now property value in Pierce County is at an all time low, so if you wanted to do any sort of river buffer, riparian zone buying projects as part of your 65 percent of the pie, I know those don't provide construction jobs or project jobs, but I think it's a great way to use some money. And I'd do it now, because everything is cyclical, and hopefully property values in Pierce County will start to go up again. I think more people will come to live here if there are less risks to living here. So that's my two cents. Thank you.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Economic development / risk	We're very interested in making sure that we protect the environment we already have; in other words, if we already have a hospital or a bridge or a housing development, that those items get protected in the planning process, and that human life and employment centers would get a priority in terms of protection in the flood zone. And it's something that we said during the Pierce County process, and it's something that we hope the Army Corps of Engineers will take into	Catherine Rudolph, Association of Realtors

Category	Comment	Author
	account as it does its process.	
Endangered Species	Preventing any breach of sewage into the river also assists ESA listed fish.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Endangered Species	The EIS should identify the endangered, threatened, and candidate plant and animal species, and, other sensitive species within the project area. The EIS should also describe critical habitat; identify impacts the project would have on species and their critical habitats; and how the project would meet all ESA requirements, including consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service. We believe an adequate EIS includes - if relevant to the project - a biological assessment and/or a description of the ESA Section 7 consultation with USFWS and NOAA Fisheries.	Erik Peterson, EPA
Environmental Justice	In all cases, efforts must be made to respect tribal cultural interests, values, and modes of expression, and to overcome language, economic, and other barriers to tribal participation.	Erik Peterson, EPA
Environmental Justice	<p>In compliance with the NEPA and with Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, actions should be taken to conduct adequate public outreach and participation that ensures the public and Native American tribes understand the possible impacts to their communities and trust resources. We note that the CEQ has developed guidance concerning how to address Environmental Justice in the environmental review process. The EPA recommends lead agencies address the following points in the EIS, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify low income and minority communities that may be impacted by the project.</li> <li>• Describe the efforts that have been or will be taken to meaningfully involve and inform affected communities about project decisions and impacts.</li> <li>• Disclose in the EIS the results of meaningful involvement efforts, such as community identified impacts.</li> <li>• Evaluate identified project impacts for their potential to disproportionately impact low income or minority communities. Disproportionate impacts should be identified in relationship to a reference community.</li> <li>• Disclose how potential disproportionate impacts and environmental justice issues have been or will be addressed by the lead agency's decision making process.</li> <li>• Propose mitigation for the unavoidable impacts that will or are likely to occur.</li> <li>• Include in the EIS a summary conclusion, sometimes referred to as an 'environmental justice determination', which concisely expresses how environmental justice impacts have been appropriately avoided, minimized or mitigated.</li> </ul>	Erik Peterson, EPA

<b>Category</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Author</b>
Flooding	The U.S. Geological Survey (2011) has undertaken work to assess sediment input to the river systems draining Mount Rainier, noting that high rates of aggradation have resulted on selected reaches of the Carbon, Nisqually, White, and Puyallup Rivers, yielding potential for increased channel migration and reduced flood-carrying capacity. This work should be considered in the analysis of project alternatives for floodrisk management in the Puyallup River basin.	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division
Flooding	Finally, as a very long term solution to the trucking of fish I think a channel diversion that runs from the Puyallup to before Mud Mt Dam is feasible. Expensive yes. But long term. It would be a huge public works type project that would create jobs. This would be another outlet for flood waters. Finally, continuing to support the local Tribe in their restoration ox bow projects obviously provides outlet for flood waters.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Human health and protection	Next I believe that where POTWs are placed on rivers, it is very important to have preventative flood wall projects as a priority for human health reasons.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Human health and protection	We're very interested in making sure that we protect the environment we already have; in other words, if we already have a hospital or a bridge or a housing development, that those items get protected in the planning process, and that human life and employment centers would get a priority in terms of protection in the flood zone.	Catherine Rudolph, Association of Realtors
Mud Mountain Dam	Study needs to clearly outline the assumptions and risk that are inherent with the operation of Mud Mountain Dam. Most citizens don't realize how much benefit they get from the dam or what would happen if it is forced to release higher flows than historically have been released during a flood.	Hans Hunger
Mud Mountain Dam	The Mud Mountain Dam was authorized to prevent flood damages in the Puyallup River valley below the mouth of the White River. In doing so, it has adversely affected fish and fish habitat in the lower 29.6 miles of the White River by creating an anadromous fish passage barrier; disrupting the natural delivery of sediments by impounding fine sediments during high flow and/or high load periods and discharging those same sediments for persistent and prolonged periods during lower river flows which increases localized deposition; capturing wood that would otherwise transport downstream, which is removed as part of dam operations; and facilitating development on the floodplain that results in further habitat degradation from reduced floodwater storage, bank hardening, river channelization, riparian vegetation removal and wood removal from the river (WRIA i 0 Limiting Factors Report, WA Conservation Commission, 1999). The dam also alters downstream river flows in the river during flood control and maintenance operations that potentially impact salmon habitat through redd exposure and/or fish trapping and stranding.	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division

<b>Category</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Author</b>
Mud Mountain Dam	If the DEIS analyzes any alternatives requiring operational or structural changes to Mud Mountain Dam, it should discretely analyze associated impacts to the aquatic ecology of the White River below the dam, and propose specific mitigation within the lower White river basin to mitigate those impacts.	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division
Mud Mountain Dam*	Next I believe that a warning system of a Mud Mt. Dam breach or failure could be placed into the lahar warning system in place in the Puyallup River Valley. In this case it could save lives to have warning to evacuate!	Sara de Soto Hoime
Mud Mountain Dam*	...I just wonder how much money a modeling study of if that dam was just fully opened up, like earthquake, worst-case scenario -- Would that define the floodplain? I mean, is that something you might look at? Because that would help.	Sara de Soto Hoime
NEPA process / EIS	A Purpose and Need Statement is required in the development of the NEPA EIS. ... [The Purpose] should be stated as the positive outcome that is expected. The Purpose must not be stated so narrowly that only one pre-selected alternative can fulfill the purpose. It should be stated broadly enough so that a range of reasonable alternatives can be considered and alternatives are not dismissed prematurely. ... The Need should establish evidence that a problem exists, or will exist, based on valid projections, and should be substantiated by facts and, where appropriate, quantitative analyses.	Erik Peterson, EPA
NEPA process / EIS	Special efforts must be taken to avoid disproportionate adverse environmental impacts on such tribes, and to eliminate barriers to their full participation in the NEPA process and related processes of environmental review.	Erik Peterson, EPA
NEPA process / EIS	The EIS should include a range of reasonable alternatives that meet the stated purpose and need for the project and that are responsive to the issues identified during the scoping process and to any identified goals and objectives. The analysis of alternatives in the EIS should compare the alternatives with respect to how well they respond to the stated need, issues, goals and objectives. ... The Council on Environmental Quality recommends that all reasonable alternatives be considered, even if some of them could be outside the capability of the applicant or the jurisdiction of the agency preparing the EIS for the proposed project. The EPA encourages selection of feasible alternatives that would (1) be environmentally sustainable, (2) maximize environmental benefits, and (3) avoid, minimize, and/or otherwise mitigate environmental impacts.	Erik Peterson, EPA
Non-structural measures	We strongly encourage the USACE to prioritize the use of non-structural measures to improve flood management where floodplain development is relatively limited, and elsewhere in the Project area to utilize non-structural measures to the greatest practicable extent as an alternative to or in conjunction with any structural measures to be employed. The DEIS should include a review and discussion of the recent work by the U.S. Geological Survey concerning Puyallup River Floods and Sedimentation (e.g., Czuba et al., 2010) in effort to evaluate the	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division

<b>Category</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Author</b>
	potential impacts on aquatic habitat and the effectiveness of various Project actions considered.	
Non-structural measures	The DEIS should consider alternatives that would use levee setbacks and non-structural measures wherever they are feasible to implement within the Project area. The DEIS should not limit consideration of such measures to just sites below the Meridian Street bridge in the City of Puyallup. The DEIS should also consider larger levee setbacks below the Meridian Street bridge in the City of Puyallup that extend outside the 200-foot open-space corridor designated by Pierce County. Where assessing costs for implementing structural measures to improve flood management, the DEIS should include total federal and local costs required to maintain the structural measures during the Project lifespan, and compare those total costs to the costs for implementing non-structural measures.	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division
Other projects in the basin	Over the last year, I sat on a planning committee during a process of discussing various plans put together by the Surface Water Management Department of Pierce County. That planning did not even address our issues. Is this a duplication of that effort, or an additional round of planning?	Gail Clowers, Pierce County Drainage District 10
Other projects in the basin	And I just want to bring up one other thing that's continually mentioned at the Pierce County Rivers Executive Task Force, which is Pierce County has been working very, very hard and diligently on our flood hazard management plan and other plans and studies that we have done.	Joyce McDonald, Pierce County Councilmember
Project funding and timeline	See the Corps. Plan fully funded & implemented A.S.A.P.	Steve Schenk
Project funding and timeline	...we would like to, if at all possible, accelerate the general investigation study so that we -- We have already had a year. We know that the schedule shows another five years. If there's any way because of the great things that have already been done and the cooperation that's happening in Pierce County -- If we could accelerate the time line and bring it up a little sooner, we would sure appreciate that.	Joyce McDonald, Pierce County Councilmember
Project funding and timeline	You know, I'd like to accelerate the process in any way possible. And I think one of the ways is that when the Corps is working in our area that they contact us and ask if we have already got the information that they're looking for. ... So I think with the Army Corps contacting the jurisdictions and counties that they're working in, you already have this -- the tribes -- it could help the whole thing all along. And if you are a paying participant into this GI study, any information that they do use they will credit your overall fee for your six-year study participation.	Ken Wolfe, City of Orting

<b>Category</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Author</b>
River channel maintenance	Proper River MGMT./Maint. is needed. Without that, there is no reason to live, work or invest in the area.	Steve Schenk
River channel maintenance	Dig out the lower 8 miles of Puyallup River.	Steve Schenk
River channel maintenance	Finally, as a very long term solution to the trucking of fish I think a channel diversion that runs from the Puyallup to before Mud Mt Dam is feasible. Expensive yes. But long term. It would be a huge public works type project that would create jobs. This would be another outlet for flood waters.	Sara de Soto Hoime
River channel maintenance	Finally, as it has been expressed by our Governor that we are to repair Puget Sound by 2020, I believe the only dredging that should ever be considered is at the mouth of the Puyallup River where contamination removal is also an issue.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Sediment management	Gravel, silt, etc. is filling up the River channels, especially lower 8 miles of Puyallup River, White (Stuck) River-Pacific Area	Steve Schenk
Sediment management	The U.S. Geological Survey (2011) has undertaken work to assess sediment input to the river systems draining Mount Rainier, noting that high rates of aggradation have resulted on selected reaches of the Carbon, Nisqually, White, and Puyallup Rivers, yielding potential for increased channel migration and reduced flood-carrying capacity. This work should be considered in the analysis of project alternatives for floodrisk management in the Puyallup River basin.	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division
Sediment management	The Mud Mountain Dam was authorized to prevent flood damages in the Puyallup River valley below the mouth of the White River. In doing so, it has adversely affected fish and fish habitat in the lower 29.6 miles of the White River by creating an anadromous fish passage barrier; disrupting the natural delivery of sediments by impounding fine sediments during high flow and/or high load periods and discharging those same sediments for persistent and prolonged periods during lower river flows which increases localized deposition; capturing wood that would otherwise transport downstream, which is removed as part of dam operations; and facilitating development on the floodplain that results in further habitat degradation from reduced floodwater storage, bank hardening, river channelization, riparian vegetation removal and wood removal from the river (WRIA i 0 Limiting Factors Report, WA Conservation Commission, 1999).	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division
Sediment management	... while we are looking at all the different options or the Army Corps is looking at all the different options, whether setback levees or improving our levees or other channel migration zones, they also -- The sediment management question is a very, very big issue for them. And we understand that we want to do it with having the least environmental negative impact. But we do want to look at that, because we have some serious buildup of sediment along the river that people look at it, and whether it's part of it, a small part of it, the perception is that it's a	Joyce McDonald, Pierce County Councilmember

<b>Category</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Author</b>
	big part of the river's flooding problems. And so I would like to make sure that that is something that is kept in the forefront. Whether it's to find a good plan to take care of it or whether it's to dismiss it as really a small part of the problem, I'd like to see that addressed fully.	
Sediment management*	A typical delineation needs to be done according to the Manual guidelines in Section F. I also request that these delineations not be done in the historic and now filled 50' deep ravine area that the creek flowed through, as the soil used to fill the ravine is not the native soil.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Structural measures	Even during flood stage, much more drainage could be accomplished during low tide if these ports were enlarged and additional pipes were installed. Even if these measures were taken, we would likely still suffer some flooding in the district during these extreme events, but the damage could be very much reduced. The only way that flooding could be eliminated altogether would be to install adequate pumping to lift the water from the basin over the levee into the river.	Gail Clowers, Pierce County Drainage District 10
Structural measures	New, stronger, higher levees with a lot of Freeboard capacity	Steve Schenk
Structural measures	The DEIS should discuss the potential for any new structural measures or flood control facilities to be federal facilities or to be enrolled in the Corps, PL 84-99 flood inspection and rehabilitation program in terms of conflict between healthy riparian habitat and the Corps/ standards for levee vegetation maintenance that restrict or prohibit riparian vegetation.	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division
Structural measures	Next I believe that where POTWs are placed on rivers, it is very important to have preventative flood wall projects as a priority for human health reasons.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Transportation	Every type of transportation is impacted, including the roads to get Freight to the Airports.	Steve Schenk
Tribal consultation	Government-to-government consultation with federally recognized Indian tribal governments is legally required.	Erik Peterson, EPA
Tribal consultation	Special efforts must be taken to avoid disproportionate adverse environmental impacts on such tribes, and to eliminate barriers to their full participation in the NEPA process and related processes of environmental review.	Erik Peterson, EPA
Tribal consultation	The lead federal agency responsible for a NEPA analysis is responsible for consulting government-to-government with the governments of federally recognized tribes, and for consulting, though not necessarily on a formal government-to-government basis, with non-recognized tribes. In all cases, efforts must be made to respect tribal cultural interests, values, and modes of	Erik Peterson, EPA

Category	Comment	Author
	expression, and to overcome language, economic, and other barriers to tribal participation.	
Tribal consultation	Special attention should be paid to environmental impacts on resources held in trust or treaty resources. Trust resources include those resources held in trust by the U.S. government on a tribe's behalf (such as tribal lands, minerals, and timber). They also include resources in which a tribe has rights that the U.S. government is obligated to protect. ... For a NEPA analysis, this means that close consideration should be given to all types of resources and aspects of the environment that tribes regard as significant, and that this consideration be carried out in consultation with tribes. Consultation should begin at the earliest stages of NEPA review, when the purpose and need for the action are considered, alternatives are formulated, and approaches to scoping are established. It should continue through the remainder of the NEPA analysis, documentation, and review process and be documented in Environmental Impact Statements and Records of Decision, Environmental Assessments and Findings of No Significant Impact, and the recordkeeping supporting the application of categorical exclusions.	Erik Peterson, EPA
Tribal consultation	<p>The EPA recommends that lead agencies consult with the potentially affected tribes specific to their interests and concerns. Among the issues that in our experience are often of concern to tribes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reservation lands.</li> <li>• Formally identified trust and treaty resources.</li> <li>• Grave and burial sites.</li> <li>• Off-reservation sacred sites.</li> <li>• Traditional cultural properties or landscapes.</li> <li>• Hunting, fishing, and gathering areas (including impacts to ecosystems that support animals and plants that are or once were part of the Tribes and tribal descendants' traditional resource areas).</li> <li>• Access to traditional and current hunting, fishing and gathering areas and species.</li> <li>• Changes in hydrology or ecological composition of springs, seeps, wetlands and streams, that could be considered sacred or have traditional resource use associations.</li> <li>• Water quality in streams, springs, wetlands and aquifers.</li> <li>• Travel routes that were historically used, and travel routes that may be currently used.</li> <li>• Historic properties and other cultural resources.</li> </ul>	Erik Peterson, EPA
Tribal consultation	Since the responsibility for government-to-government consultation with tribes is vested by law in the federal government, we recommend that a lead federal agency not delegate its tribal consultation responsibilities to the State or local government unless it has a formal agreement to such delegation with the pertinent tribal government or governments permitting such delegation, as well as a formal agreement with the State or local government as to how such	Erik Peterson, EPA

<b>Category</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Author</b>
	consultation responsibilities will be carried out.	
Tribal consultation	MITFD requests close coordination with USACE on future elements of the proposed flood-risk management project (Project) encompassing portions of the Puyallup, Carbon, and White rivers, because these elements may impact treaty fishing access, treaty protected fisheries resources, and lands owned by the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division
Tribal consultation	Finally, continuing to support the local Tribe in their restoration ox bow projects obviously provides outlet for flood waters.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Vegetation habitat and management	A vegetation management plan should be prepared to address control of such plant intrusions. The plan should list the noxious weeds and exotic plants that occur in the project corridor. In cases where noxious weeds are a threat, the EPA recommends the vegetation management plan detail a strategy for prevention, early detection of invasion, and control procedures for each species. ... If any pesticides and herbicides would be used for vegetation treatment during the proposed project operations, the EIS should address any potential toxic hazards related to the application of the chemicals, and describe what actions would be taken to assure that impacts by toxic substances released to the environment would be minimized. If vegetation would be burned, then the EIS should include a smoke management program that would be followed to reduce public health impacts and potential ambient air quality exceedance. The EIS should include a project design feature that calls for the development of an invasive plant management plan to monitor and control noxious weeds, and to utilize native plants for restoration of disturbed areas because of the project.	Erik Peterson, EPA
Vegetation habitat and management	The DEIS should discuss the potential for any new structural measures or flood control facilities to be federal facilities or to be enrolled in the Corps, PL 84-99 flood inspection and rehabilitation program in terms of conflict between healthy riparian habitat and the Corps/ standards for levee vegetation maintenance that restrict or prohibit riparian vegetation.	Karen Walter, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Division
Vegetation habitat and management	As a natural resources major, I understand that LWD is essential not only for critical fish habitat but logs are like sponges and hold tons of water: their presence in rivers should be desired. Same goes for living trees next to the river: critical fish habitat, root bank stabilization AND their leaves and needles store rainwater.	Sara de Soto Hoime
Water quality / contamination	To meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act, the EIS must identify all water bodies likely to be impacted by the project, the nature of the potential impacts, and the specific discharges and pollutants likely to impact those waters (addressing both Section 402 and 404 discharges and potential impairments to water quality standards). The EIS must also disclose information regarding relevant Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations, the water bodies to which they apply, water quality standards and pollutants of concern. 303(d) listed	Erik Peterson, EPA

Category	Comment	Author
	waters should not be further degraded. If additional pollutant loading is predicted to occur to a 303(d) listed stream as a result of a project, the EIS should include measures to control existing sources of pollution to offset pollutant additions.	
Water quality / contamination	Consider implementing watershed or aquatic habitat restoration activities to compensate for past impacts to water resources, particularly in watersheds with 303(d) listed waters where development may have contributed to impairments through past channelization, riverine or floodplain encroachments, sediment delivery during construction, and other activities that may have affected channel stability, water quality, aquatic habitat, and designated waterbody uses. Provisions for antidegradation of water quality apply to water bodies where water quality standards are presently being met.	Erik Peterson, EPA
Water quality / contamination	<p>The EPA recommends that lead agencies consult with the potentially affected tribes specific to their interests and concerns. Among the issues that in our experience are often of concern to tribes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reservation lands.</li> <li>• Formally identified trust and treaty resources.</li> <li>• Grave and burial sites.</li> <li>• Off-reservation sacred sites.</li> <li>• Traditional cultural properties or landscapes.</li> <li>• Hunting, fishing, and gathering areas (including impacts to ecosystems that support animals and plants that are or once were part of the Tribes and tribal descendants' traditional resource areas).</li> <li>• Access to traditional and current hunting, fishing and gathering areas and species.</li> <li>• Changes in hydrology or ecological composition of springs, seeps, wetlands and streams, that could be considered sacred or have traditional resource use associations.</li> <li>• Water quality in streams, springs, wetlands and aquifers.</li> <li>• Travel routes that were historically used, and travel routes that may be currently used.</li> <li>• Historic properties and other cultural resources.</li> </ul>	Erik Peterson, EPA

**Next Steps**

The comments received during the NEPA Scoping period were collected and analyzed to inform the scope of the Puyallup River Basin General Investigation Study. This scoping summary report produced by the Corps will be shared with Pierce County and posted on the project’s website at: <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.cfm?sitename=PRBFDRS&pagename=main>

Public and agency outreach will continue throughout the duration of the project, including information sessions to discuss and present project updates, website updates, and meetings with organizations, agencies and tribal representatives.

There will be a formal review and comment process when the Final Without Project Conditions Report is issued, scheduled January 2012. This report will explain the resulting conditions of the Puyallup River Basin if no flood-risk mitigation measures are implemented. A Feasibility Scoping Meeting, open to the public, is scheduled for June 2012. Comments made on the Feasibility Study/DEIS will be formally addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. The Feasibility Study/EIS is expected to be completed in August 2015.

# Appendix I-3

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## Public Involvement

### Communication with Tribes

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DRAFT



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 3755  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

JAN 19 2015

Environmental and Cultural Resources Branch

The Honorable Bill Sterud, Chairman  
Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation  
3009 East Portland Ave  
Tacoma, WA 98404

Dear Chairman Sterud;

The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is currently conducting a feasibility study which formulates and evaluates potential solutions to address flood risk in the Puyallup River Basin. The Puyallup River Basin Flood-Risk Management General Investigation (GI) Feasibility Study (Study) encompasses parts of Pierce and King Counties, Washington, and includes the Puyallup, White, and Carbon River drainages (see enclosed map). The Study is being carried out under the Corps' GI Program. The Corps is the lead Federal agency. The non-Federal sponsor is Pierce County, Washington. The Corps has identified the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation (Tribe) as a party that may have an interest in this Study because of the location and potential impacts on water, fisheries, or cultural resources from proposed actions. Although Corps staff have met informally with Tribal staff about this Study, and I have provided updates to you at meetings we have both attended, the purposes of this letter are to formally notify you about this Study to give you the opportunity to identify issues or resources that may be of concern and to offer you an opportunity to meet with us to further discuss this Study.

The Corps and non-Federal sponsor are currently completing development of a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the Study. The TSP will be based on evaluation and comparison of an array of flood-risk management alternatives conducted during the Corps' planning process. During this development period, we would like to afford the Tribe the opportunity to review the measures proposed in the Preliminary TSP, provide input on the proposed measures, and ask questions about the Preliminary TSP so we can address any issues or concerns. A summary of the Preliminary TSP is enclosed. The intent of the Preliminary TSP would be to manage flood risk by modifying the existing levee system by setting back levees, increasing existing levee heights, improving existing levee reliability, or constructing new levees and floodwalls. The proposed levee modifications would be the primary flood-risk management feature within this alternative and would work with other existing flood-risk management features to reduce flood risk within the project area. The analysis and

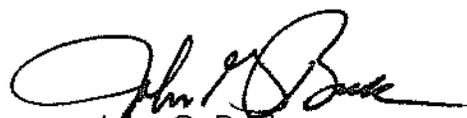
recommendations for the Study will be documented in a draft feasibility report and environmental impact statement that is scheduled for public review in early 2016.

We wish to maintain assurance of your interests and be apprised of any objections, requests, or requirements you may have. In addition, my staff will be contacting the Tribe following this letter on specific issues related to fisheries or cultural resources. We would also like to offer you an opportunity to meet with us to further discuss this Study. This could occur at either the staff level or through formal Government-to-Government consultation. A staff-level meeting with us would not be intended to replace a Government-to-Government meeting between our respective governments. As you are aware, you may request a Government-to-Government meeting with us at any time during the Study and we invite you, as a Federally-recognized Tribe, to participate in consultation with the Corps so that your concerns are identified and addressed prior to the Corps making a final decision on project measures

Copies of this letter and accompanying enclosures are being provided to the following Tribal staff: Mr. Russell Laddley, Tribal Fisheries; Mr. Jeffrey Thomas, Director, Timber, Fish and Wildlife Programs; Mr. Brandon Reynon, Cultural Resources Program, Historic Preservation Department; Mr. Bill Sullivan, Director, Environmental Programs and Natural Resources; and Mr. Peter Mills, Program Manager, Planning and Land Use Department.

For additional information regarding the Puyallup River Basin GI, please contact me directly at (206) 764-3690 or [john.g.buck@usace.army.mil](mailto:john.g.buck@usace.army.mil). Should your staff need further information, please have them contact the Project Manager, Ms. Lynn Wetzler Dewald, at (206) 764-3695 or [lynn.w.dewald@usace.army.mil](mailto:lynn.w.dewald@usace.army.mil). For assistance with general information regarding Tribal coordination, please contact the Seattle District's Tribal Liaison, Ms. Lori Morris, at (206) 764-3625 or [frances.morris@usace.army.mil](mailto:frances.morris@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,



John G. Buck  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander

Enclosures



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ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 3755  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

JAN 19 2015

Environmental and Cultural Resources Branch

The Honorable Carolyn Lubenau, Chair  
Snoqualmie Tribe  
P.O. Box 969  
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

Dear Chair Lubenau;

The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is currently conducting a feasibility study which formulates and evaluates potential solutions to address flood risk in the Puyallup River Basin. The Puyallup River Basin Flood-Risk Management General Investigation (GI) Feasibility Study (Study) encompasses parts of Pierce and King Counties, Washington, and includes the Puyallup, White, and Carbon River drainages (see enclosed map). The Study is being carried out under the Corps' GI Program. The Corps is the lead Federal agency. The non-Federal sponsor is Pierce County, Washington. The Corps has identified the Snoqualmie Tribe (Tribe) as a party that may have an interest in this Study because of the location and potential impacts on water, fisheries, or cultural resources from proposed actions. The purposes of this letter are to formally notify you about this Study to give you the opportunity to identify issues or resources that may be of concern and to offer you an opportunity to meet with us to further discuss this Study.

The Corps and non-Federal sponsor are currently completing development of a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the Study. The TSP will be based on evaluation and comparison of an array of flood-risk management alternatives conducted during the Corps' planning process. During this development period, we would like to afford the Tribe the opportunity to review the measures proposed in the Preliminary TSP, provide input on the proposed measures, and ask questions about the Preliminary TSP so we can address any issues or concerns. A summary of the Preliminary TSP is enclosed. The intent of the Preliminary TSP would be to manage flood risk by modifying the existing levee system by setting back levees, increasing existing levee heights, improving existing levee reliability, or constructing new levees and floodwalls. The proposed levee modifications would be the primary flood-risk management feature within this alternative and would work with other existing flood-risk management features to reduce flood risk within the project area. The analysis and recommendations for the Study will be documented in a draft feasibility report and environmental impact statement that is scheduled for public review in early 2016.

We wish to maintain assurance of your interests and be apprised of any objections, requests, or requirements you may have. In addition, my staff will be contacting the Tribe following this letter on specific issues related to fisheries or cultural resources. We would also like to offer you an opportunity to meet with us to further discuss this Study. This could occur at either the staff level or through formal Government-to-Government consultation. A staff-level meeting with us would not be intended to replace a Government-to-Government meeting between our respective governments. As you are aware, you may request a Government-to-Government meeting with us at any time during the Study and we invite you, as a Federally-recognized Tribe, to participate in consultation with the Corps so that your concerns are identified and addressed prior to the Corps making a final decision on project measures

Copies of this letter and accompanying enclosures are being provided to the following Tribal staff: Mr. Steven Mullen-Moses, Cultural Resources Program, and Ms. Cindy Spirey, Director, Environmental and Natural Resources Programs.

For additional information regarding the Puyallup River Basin GI, please contact me directly at (206) 764-3690 or [john.g.buck@usace.army.mil](mailto:john.g.buck@usace.army.mil). Should your staff need further information, please have them contact the Project Manager, Ms. Lynn Wetzler Dewald, at (206) 764-3695 or [lynn.w.dewald@usace.army.mil](mailto:lynn.w.dewald@usace.army.mil). For assistance with general information regarding Tribal coordination, please contact the Seattle District's Tribal Liaison, Ms. Lori Morris, at (206) 764-3625 or [frances.morris@usace.army.mil](mailto:frances.morris@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

  
John G. Buck  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander

Enclosures



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 3755  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

JAN 19 2015

Environmental and Cultural Resources Branch

The Honorable David Lopeman, Chairman  
Squaxin Island Tribe of the Squaxin Island Reservation  
10 SE Squaxin Lane  
Shelton, WA 98584-9200

Dear Chairman Lopeman;

The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is currently conducting a feasibility study which formulates and evaluates potential solutions to address flood risk in the Puyallup River Basin. The Puyallup River Basin Flood-Risk Management General Investigation (GI) Feasibility Study (Study) encompasses parts of Pierce and King Counties, Washington, and includes the Puyallup, White, and Carbon River drainages (see enclosed map). The Study is being carried out under the Corps' GI Program. The Corps is the lead Federal agency. The non-Federal sponsor is Pierce County, Washington. The Corps has identified the Squaxin Island Tribe of the Squaxin Island Reservation (Tribe) as a party that may have an interest in this Study because of the location and potential impacts on water, fisheries, or cultural resources from proposed actions. The purposes of this letter are to formally notify you about this Study to give you the opportunity to identify issues or resources that may be of concern and to offer you an opportunity to meet with us to further discuss this Study.

The Corps and non-Federal sponsor are currently completing development of a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the Study. The TSP will be based on evaluation and comparison of an array of flood-risk management alternatives conducted during the Corps' planning process. During this development period, we would like to afford the Tribe the opportunity to review the measures proposed in the Preliminary TSP, provide input on the proposed measures, and ask questions about the Preliminary TSP so we can address any issues or concerns. A summary of the Preliminary TSP is enclosed. The intent of the Preliminary TSP would be to manage flood risk by modifying the existing levee system by setting back levees, increasing existing levee heights, improving existing levee reliability, or constructing new levees and floodwalls. The proposed levee modifications would be the primary flood-risk management feature within this alternative and would work with other existing flood-risk management features to reduce flood risk within the project area. The analysis and recommendations for the Study will be documented in a draft feasibility report and environmental impact statement that is scheduled for public review in early 2016.

We wish to maintain assurance of your interests and be apprised of any objections, requests, or requirements you may have. In addition, my staff will be contacting the Tribe following this letter on specific issues related to fisheries or cultural resources. We would also like to offer you an opportunity to meet with us to further discuss this Study. This could occur at either the staff level or through formal Government-to-Government consultation. A staff-level meeting with us would not be intended to replace a Government-to-Government meeting between our respective governments. As you are aware, you may request a Government-to-Government meeting with us at any time during the Study and we invite you, as a Federally-recognized Tribe, to participate in consultation with the Corps so that your concerns are identified and addressed prior to the Corps making a final decision on project measures.

Copies of this letter and accompanying enclosures are being provided to the following Tribal staff: Ms. Rhonda Foster, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Cultural Resources Program; Mr. Jim Peters, Director, Fisheries Program; and Mr. Andy Whitener, Director, Natural Resources Program.

For additional information regarding the Puyallup River Basin GI, please contact me directly at (206) 764-3690 or [john.g.buck@usace.army.mil](mailto:john.g.buck@usace.army.mil). Should your staff need further information, please have them contact the Project Manager, Ms. Lynn Wetzler Dewald, at (206) 764-3695 or [lynn.w.dewald@usace.army.mil](mailto:lynn.w.dewald@usace.army.mil). For assistance with general information regarding Tribal coordination, please contact the Seattle District's Tribal Liaison, Ms. Lori Morris, at (206) 764-3625 or [frances.morris@usace.army.mil](mailto:frances.morris@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,



John G. Buck  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander

Enclosures



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 3755  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

JAN 19 2015

Environmental and Cultural Resources Branch

The Honorable JoDe L. Goudy, Chairman  
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation  
P.O. Box 151  
Toppenish, WA 98948

Dear Chairman Goudy;

The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is currently conducting a feasibility study which formulates and evaluates potential solutions to address flood risk in the Puyallup River Basin. The Puyallup River Basin Flood-Risk Management General Investigation (GI) Feasibility Study (Study) encompasses parts of Pierce and King Counties, Washington, and includes the Puyallup, White, and Carbon River drainages (see enclosed map). The Study is being carried out under the Corps' GI Program. The Corps is the lead Federal agency. The non-Federal sponsor is Pierce County, Washington. The Corps has identified the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Tribe) as a party that may have an interest in this Study because of the location and potential impacts on water, fisheries, or cultural resources from proposed actions. The purposes of this letter are to formally notify you about this Study to give you the opportunity to identify issues or resources that may be of concern and to offer you an opportunity to meet with us to further discuss this Study.

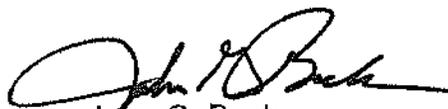
The Corps and non-Federal sponsor are currently completing development of a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the Study. The TSP will be based on evaluation and comparison of an array of flood-risk management alternatives conducted during the Corps' planning process. During this development period, we would like to afford the Tribe the opportunity to review the measures proposed in the Preliminary TSP, provide input on the proposed measures, and ask questions about the Preliminary TSP so we can address any issues or concerns. A summary of the Preliminary TSP is enclosed. The intent of the Preliminary TSP would be to manage flood risk by modifying the existing levee system by setting back levees, increasing existing levee heights, improving existing levee reliability, or constructing new levees and floodwalls. The proposed levee modifications would be the primary flood-risk management feature within this alternative and would work with other existing flood-risk management features to reduce flood risk within the project area. The analysis and recommendations for the Study will be documented in a draft feasibility report and environmental impact statement that is scheduled for public review in early 2016.

We wish to maintain assurance of your interests and be apprised of any objections, requests, or requirements you may have. In addition, my staff will be contacting the Tribe following this letter on specific issues related to fisheries or cultural resources. We would also like to offer you an opportunity to meet with us to further discuss this Study. This could occur at either the staff level or through formal Government-to-Government consultation. A staff-level meeting with us would not be intended to replace a Government-to-Government meeting between our respective governments. As you are aware, you may request a Government-to-Government meeting with us at any time during the Study and we invite you, as a Federally-recognized Tribe, to participate in consultation with the Corps so that your concerns are identified and addressed prior to the Corps making a final decision on project measures.

Copies of this letter and accompanying enclosures are being provided to the following Tribal staff: Ms. Kate Valdez, Tribal Historic Preservation Office; Mr. Paul Ward, Fisheries Program; Mr. Aja Decoteau, Environmental Programs; and Mr. Philip Rigdon, Natural Resources Program.

For additional information regarding the Puyallup River Basin GI, please contact me directly at (206) 764-3690 or [john.g.buck@usace.army.mil](mailto:john.g.buck@usace.army.mil). Should your staff need further information, please have them contact the Project Manager, Ms. Lynn Wetzler Dewald, at (206) 764-3695 or [lynn.w.dewald@usace.army.mil](mailto:lynn.w.dewald@usace.army.mil). For assistance with general information regarding Tribal coordination, please contact the Seattle District's Tribal Liaison, Ms. Lori Morris, at (206) 764-3625 or [frances.morris@usace.army.mil](mailto:frances.morris@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,



John G. Buck  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander

Enclosures



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 3755  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

JAN 19 2015

Environmental and Cultural Resources Branch

The Honorable Farron McCloud, Chairman  
Nisqually Indian Tribe of the Nisqually Reservation  
4820 She-Na-Num Dr. SE  
Olympia, WA 98513-9105

Dear Chairman McCloud;

The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is currently conducting a feasibility study which formulates and evaluates potential solutions to address flood risk in the Puyallup River Basin. The Puyallup River Basin Flood-Risk Management General Investigation (GI) Feasibility Study (Study) encompasses parts of Pierce and King Counties, Washington, and includes the Puyallup, White, and Carbon River drainages (see enclosed map). The Study is being carried out under the Corps' GI Program. The Corps is the lead Federal agency. The non-Federal sponsor is Pierce County, Washington. The Corps has identified the Nisqually Indian Tribe of the Nisqually Reservation (Tribe) as a party that may have an interest in this Study because of the location and potential impacts on water, fisheries, or cultural resources from proposed actions. The purposes of this letter are to formally notify you about this Study to give you the opportunity to identify issues or resources that may be of concern and to offer you an opportunity to meet with us to further discuss this Study.

The Corps and non-Federal sponsor are currently completing development of a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the Study. The TSP will be based on evaluation and comparison of an array of flood-risk management alternatives conducted during the Corps' planning process. During this development period, we would like to afford the Tribe the opportunity to review the measures proposed in the Preliminary TSP, provide input on the proposed measures, and ask questions about the Preliminary TSP so we can address any issues or concerns. A summary of the Preliminary TSP is enclosed. The intent of the Preliminary TSP would be to manage flood risk by modifying the existing levee system by setting back levees, increasing existing levee heights, improving existing levee reliability, or constructing new levees and floodwalls. The proposed levee modifications would be the primary flood-risk management feature within this alternative and would work with other existing flood-risk management features to reduce flood risk within the project area. The analysis and recommendations for the Study will be documented in a draft feasibility report and environmental impact statement that is scheduled for public review in early 2016.

We wish to maintain assurance of your interests and be apprised of any objections, requests, or requirements you may have. In addition, my staff will be contacting the Tribe following this letter on specific issues related to fisheries or cultural resources. We would also like to offer you an opportunity to meet with us to further discuss this Study. This could occur at either the staff level or through formal Government-to-Government consultation. A staff-level meeting with us would not be intended to replace a Government-to-Government meeting between our respective governments. As you are aware, you may request a Government-to-Government meeting with us at any time during the Study and we invite you, as a Federally-recognized Tribe, to participate in consultation with the Corps so that your concerns are identified and addressed prior to the Corps making a final decision on project measures.

Copies of this letter and accompanying enclosures are being provided to the following Tribal staff: Mr. Curtis Stanley, Environmental Planner, Natural Resources Program; Mr. David Trout, Director, Fisheries and Natural Resources; Ms. Jackie Wall, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Cultural Resources Department; and Mr. Joe Cushman, Director, Planning.

For additional information regarding the Puyallup River Basin GI, please contact me directly at (206) 764-3690 or [john.g.buck@usace.army.mil](mailto:john.g.buck@usace.army.mil). Should your staff need further information, please have them contact the Project Manager, Ms. Lynn Wetzler Dewald, at (206) 764-3695 or [lynn.w.dewald@usace.army.mil](mailto:lynn.w.dewald@usace.army.mil). For assistance with general information regarding Tribal coordination, please contact the Seattle District's Tribal Liaison, Ms. Lori Morris, at (206) 764-3625 or [frances.morris@usace.army.mil](mailto:frances.morris@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,



John G. Buck  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander

Enclosures



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 3755  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

JAN 19 2015

Environmental and Cultural Resources Branch

The Honorable Virginia Cross, Chairwoman  
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe of the Muckleshoot Reservation  
39015 172nd Ave SE  
Auburn, WA 98092

Dear Chairwoman Cross;

The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is currently conducting a feasibility study which formulates and evaluates potential solutions to address flood risk in the Puyallup River Basin. The Puyallup River Basin Flood-Risk Management General Investigation (GI) Feasibility Study (Study) encompasses parts of Pierce and King Counties, Washington, and includes the Puyallup, White, and Carbon River drainages (see enclosed map). The Study is being carried out under the Corps' GI Program. The Corps is the lead Federal agency. The non-Federal sponsor is Pierce County, Washington. The Corps has identified the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe of the Muckleshoot Reservation (Tribe) as a party that may have an interest in this Study because of the location and potential impacts on water, fisheries, or cultural resources from proposed actions. Although Corps staff have met informally with Tribal staff about this Study, and I have provided updates to you at meetings we have both attended, the purposes of this letter are to formally notify you about this Study to give you the opportunity to identify issues or resources that may be of concern and to offer you an opportunity to meet with us to further discuss this Study.

The Corps and non-Federal sponsor are currently completing development of a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the Study. The TSP will be based on evaluation and comparison of an array of flood-risk management alternatives conducted during the Corps' planning process. During this development period, we would like to afford the Tribe the opportunity to review the measures proposed in the Preliminary TSP, provide input on the proposed measures, and ask questions about the Preliminary TSP so we can address any issues or concerns. A summary of the Preliminary TSP is enclosed. The intent of the Preliminary TSP would be to manage flood-risk by modifying the existing levee system by setting back levees, increasing existing levee heights, improving existing levee reliability, or constructing new levees and floodwalls. The proposed levee modifications would be the primary flood-risk management feature within this alternative and would work with other existing flood-risk management features to reduce flood risk within the project area. The analysis and

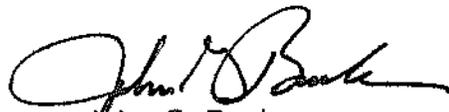
recommendations for the Study will be documented in a draft feasibility report and environmental impact statement that is scheduled for public review in early 2016.

We wish to maintain assurance of your interests and be apprised of any objections, requests, or requirements you may have. In addition, my staff will be contacting the Tribe following this letter on specific issues related to fisheries or cultural resources. We would also like to offer you an opportunity to meet with us to further discuss this Study. This could occur at either the staff level or through formal Government-to-Government consultation. A staff-level meeting with us would not be intended to replace a Government-to-Government meeting between our respective governments. As you are aware, you may request a Government-to-Government meeting with us at any time during the Study and we invite you, as a Federally-recognized Tribe, to participate in consultation with the Corps so that your concerns are identified and addressed prior to the Corps making a final decision on project measures.

Copies of this letter and accompanying enclosures are being provided to the following Tribal staff: Ms. Laura Murphy, Archaeologist, Cultural Resources Program; Ms. Isabel Tinoco, Natural Resources Program; Ms. Holly Coccoli, Fisheries Program; Ms. Karen Walter; and Mr. Steve Taylor, Director, Planning Department.

For additional information regarding the Puyallup River Basin GI, please contact me directly at (206) 764-3690 or [john.g.buck@usace.army.mil](mailto:john.g.buck@usace.army.mil). Should your staff need further information, please have them contact the Project Manager, Ms. Lynn Wetzler Dewald, at (206) 764-3695 or [lynn.w.dewald@usace.army.mil](mailto:lynn.w.dewald@usace.army.mil). For assistance with general information regarding Tribal coordination, please contact the Seattle District's Tribal Liaison, Ms. Lori Morris, at (206) 764-3625 or [frances.morris@usace.army.mil](mailto:frances.morris@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,



John G. Buck  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander

Enclosures

## **Agency Preliminary Tentatively Selected Plan Proposed Flood Risk Management Actions**

The Puyallup River Basin General Investigation is a Flood Risk Management Study which includes an Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement as its decision document. The Study is currently in the Comparison of Alternative Plans Phase of the Planning Process. The Corps has identified a Preliminary Tentatively Selected Plan and is in the process of identifying a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP). The study area is comprised of the floodplains of the major populated tributaries within the Puyallup River Basin, which includes the Puyallup River, White River and Carbon River. The study area is primarily located in Pierce County, Washington with the exception of a portion of the study area north of the main stem of the White River located in King County.

The intent of the actions proposed in the Preliminary TSP is to modify the existing levee system to manage flood risk by setting back levees, increasing existing levee heights, improving existing levee reliability, or constructing new levees. The proposed levee modifications are the primary flood risk management features and would work with other existing flood risk management features to reduce flood risk within the study area. Actual levee alignments, footprints, or alternative measures will be better refined and sited during subsequent phases of the feasibility study and during pre-construction and engineering design process.

The specific actions currently in the preliminary TSP are described below for each reach of the Puyallup River. Due to the configuration of the Puyallup River, the river is described for purposes of the study as the Lower Puyallup River (approximately RM 0.0 – RM 10.3), Middle Puyallup River (approximately RM 10.3 – RM 17.4) and Upper Puyallup River RM (approximately 17.4 – RM 29.6).

### **Lower Puyallup River (RM 0.0 – RM 10.3)**

*Federal Authorized Levees (Left and Right Bank):* The Federal Authorized Levees (FAL) extend from RM 0.7 to RM 2.7 on the right bank and RM 0.7 to RM 2.9 on the left bank. The Preliminary TSP proposes to raise sections of the left and right banks of the FAL along the Lower Puyallup River. The authorized capacities of the Federal Levees are 50,000 cfs, which was intended to provide protection to the 1% annual chance of exceedances (ACE) flood event<sup>1</sup>. The proposed modifications to the Federal Levees include: the right bank levee would be raised from RM 2.0 to 2.7, and the FAL left bank levee would be raised from RM 1.5 to 2.9.

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<sup>1</sup> In Corps reports dealing with flood risk management, the risk of an individual storm or flood event occurring is expressed as the annual chance of exceedances (ACE), which is the probability that the specified discharge, or flood event, could be equaled or exceeded during any given year. A "1% ACE flood" has in the past commonly been referred to as a "100-yr flood". The occurrence of a specific ACE flood in one year, does not alter its ACE in the next year. Many documents, along with maps and other supporting materials, use "x-year flood" expressions, in which the number of years is sometimes known as "the return interval."

North Levee Road A- Setback: The Preliminary TSP proposes setting back the North Levee Road levee on the right bank of the Lower Puyallup River extending from ~RM 3.0 to the end of the North Levee Road at RM 8. In the Preliminary TSP, the levee would be setback from ~RM 3.0 to ~RM 4.0 (Frank Albert Road) approximately 1,000 feet (ft), from ~RM 4.0 to RM 6.0 approximately 80 to 100 ft, from RM 6.0 to RM 7.1 approximately 600 ft, and from RM 7.0 to RM 8.0 approximately 80 ft to 100 ft. The setback levee alignment is approximately 32,000 linear ft with approximate levee heights ranging from 6 ft to 15 ft. The proposed levee modification would manage flood risks to residential, commercial, and industrial properties. The existing levee would be removed and the material re-used in the setback levee.

River Road Levee Floodwall: The Preliminary TSP considers adding a flood wall along the River Road Levee on the left bank of the Lower Puyallup River extending from approximately RM 3.0 to RM 7.0. This floodwall would reduce risks to the transportation corridor and residential, commercial and industrial structures. The floodwall height would range from 4 ft to 8 ft, with the average of about 6 ft.

Lower Puyallup River Extension Levee (OR Floodwall): The Preliminary TSP considers extending the levee on the left bank of the Lower Puyallup River from RM 7.2 to RM 8.6 (Map 9). The new extension levee would be approximately 7,200 ft long and would incorporate about 1,100 ft of the existing River Road Levee. The levee height would vary between 8 ft and 13 ft. In areas where the levee is currently approximately 8 ft tall, there would be about 3.5 ft of additional fill placed on the existing levee.

### **White River (Puyallup River RM 10.3 / White River RM 0.0 to RM 29.6)**

New Levees - Pacific Park Levee / Butte Avenue Levee / Lower White River Levee: The Preliminary TSP proposes new levees along the right bank of the White River to manage flood risks to residential, commercial, and industrial properties. The new levees would extend from ~RM 2.0 to RM 4.5 and ~RM 5.0 to 6.0 at Pacific Park.

Property Acquisition: The Preliminary TSP proposes that the non-Federal sponsor will acquire 35 acres of property RM 4.5 to RM 5.0 along the left bank of the White River. These properties have experienced repetitive flood impacts and are at risk to additional adverse flood impacts.

### **Middle Puyallup River (RM 10.3 – RM 17.4)**

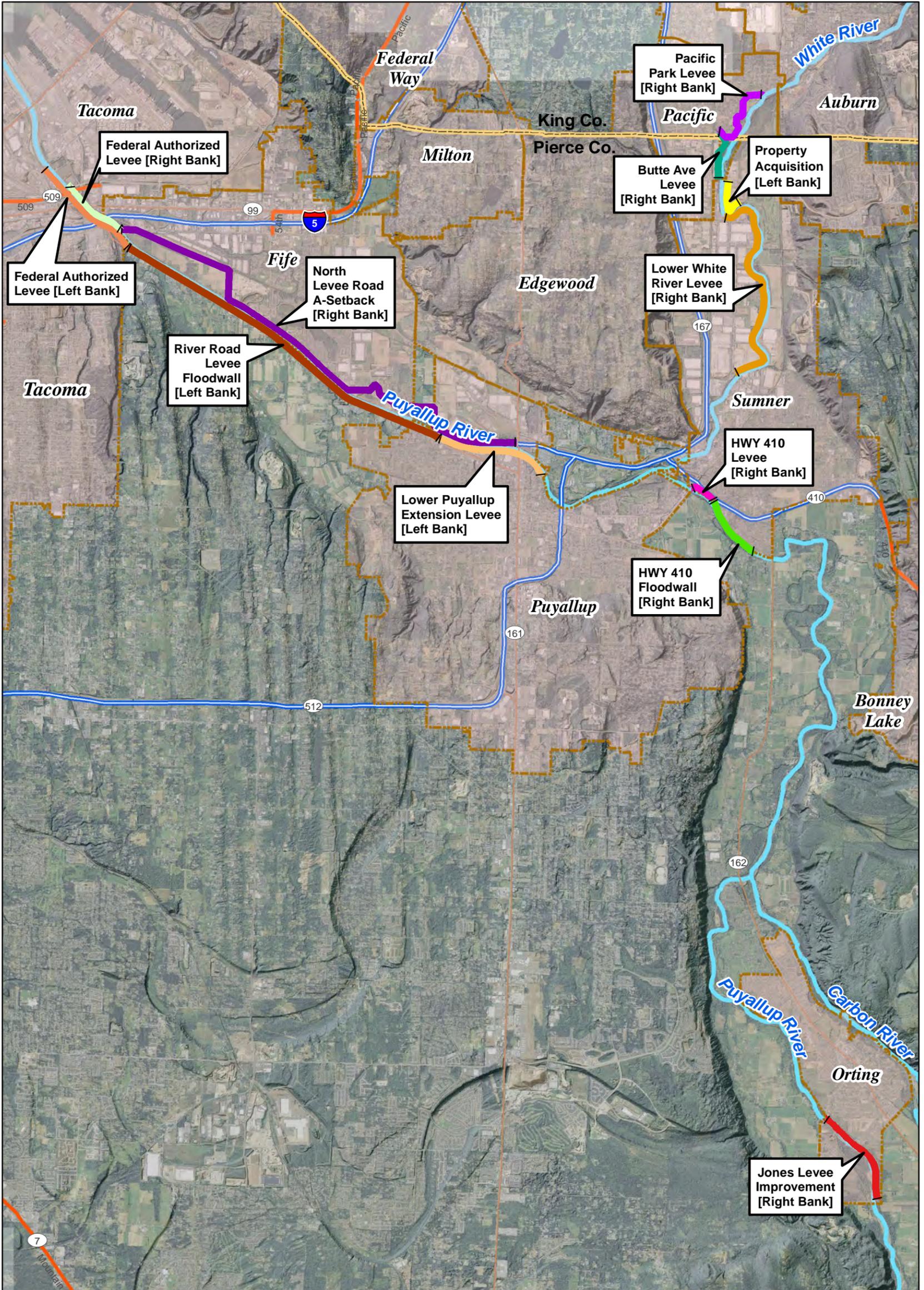
HWY 410 Floodwall and Levee: The Preliminary TSP proposes adding a combination of a new levee and floodwall that would provide protection to the adjacent SR 410 and residential properties. The levee section is proposed between ~RM 10.5 and 11.0 and the floodwall would be located between RM 11.0 to 12.0. The height of the levee and floodwall would vary between 6 ft and 12 ft.

### **Upper Puyallup River (RM 17.4 – RM 28.6)**

Jones Levee Improvement: The Jones Levee extends from approximately RM 21.0 to RM 22.5, along the right bank of the Upper Puyallup River. The Preliminary TSP proposes to modify the levee in place by increasing the levee heights approximately 1.5 ft to 6.5 ft as well as improving the riverside erosion protection. This levee modification would also include a flow deflector design extending into the Ford Levee.

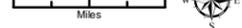


# Puyallup River Basin Flood Risk Management - Tentatively Selected Plan



**TSP Features**

- █ Butte Ave Levee
- █ Federal Authorized Levee - Left Bank
- █ Federal Authorized Levee - Right Bank
- █ HWY 410 Floodwall
- █ HWY 410 Levee
- █ Jones Levee Improvement
- █ Lower Puyallup Extension Levee
- █ Lower White River Levee
- █ North Levee Road A-Setback
- █ Pacific Park Levee
- █ Property Acquisition
- █ River Road Levee Floodwall



DISCLAIMER - While the United States Army Corps of Engineers, (hereinafter referred to as USACE) has made a reasonable effort to insure the accuracy of the maps and associated data, it should be explicitly noted that USACE makes no warranty, representation or guaranty, either express or implied, as to the content, sequence, accuracy, timeliness or completeness of any of the data provided herein. The USACE, its officers, agents, employees or servants shall assume no liability of any nature for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information provided regardless of how caused. The USACE, its officers, agents, employees or servants shall assume no liability for any decisions made or actions taken or not taken by the user of the maps and associated data in reliance upon any information or data furnished here. By using these maps and associated data the user does so entirely at their own risk and explicitly acknowledges that he/she is aware of and agrees to be bound by this disclaimer and agrees not to present any claim or demand of any nature against the USACE, its officers, agents, employees or servants in any forum whatsoever for any damages of any nature whatsoever that may result from or may be caused in any way by the use of the maps and associated data.

# Appendix I-4

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## Public Involvement

### FEMA Cooperating Agency Letter

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DRAFT



**FEMA**

October 7, 2014

Evan R. Lewis, Chief – Environmental and Cultural Resources Branch  
Seattle District Corps of Engineers  
Department of the Army  
P.O. Box 3755  
Seattle, Washington 98104-2255

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for your letter of July 24, 2014, inviting the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to become a cooperating agency for the proposed Puyallup River Basin General Investigation Study Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). FEMA Region 10 accepts your offer and would like to serve as a cooperating agency in this effort.

FEMA Region 10 has an interest in potential future federal activities in the Puyallup Watershed as they pertain to implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by participating communities. In particular, we request to be actively involved in the scoping component of the EIS as well as providing input/assisting with the Hydrology and Hydrologic section. The topics we are interested in contributing to included:

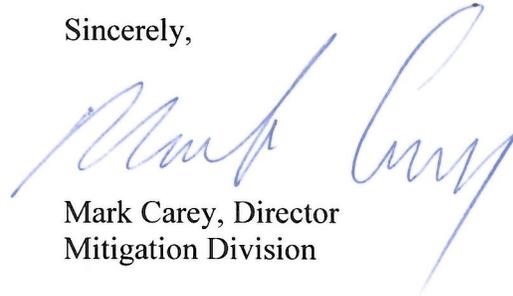
1. Scoping and development of alternatives involving new levees, dikes or berms.
2. Evaluation of improvements, modifications or alterations of any levees, dikes, revetments or berms that provide protection to improved property up to the 100-year flood level.
3. Depiction of the existing baseline for hydrology/hydraulics for the 10-, 50-, 100- and 500-year flood events. We currently have pending preliminary flood insurance rate maps and would like to share our data, as well as work with your staff, on reviewing and portraying the accuracy of that data.
4. Provide input to the cumulative impacts analysis associated with anticipated or planned future FEMA funded activities, including acquisitions and elevation of structures, in the watershed.
5. Consistency with the 2008 Biological Opinion (BiOP) issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for the NFIP in Puget Sound; specifically, an evaluation of the implementation of Reasonable and Prudent Alternative #5 contained in the BiOP, required of Puget Sound NFIP communities.
6. Address the applicability of FEMA's Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedure (LAMP) for development of alternatives involving new levees, dikes or berms.

We would be interested in the anticipated timeline for development of the EIS in order to help ensure that available FEMA staff can participate at the appropriate timeframe and not create an impediment to the schedule.

Mr. Lewis  
October 7, 2014  
Page 2

FEMA's primary contact for this cooperating effort is Mr. Barry Gall, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer. Please contact him for further coordination via email at [barry.gall@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:barry.gall@fema.dhs.gov) or (425) 487-4714.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Carey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Carey" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Carey, Director  
Mitigation Division

cc: Kristen Leahy, FEMA Environmental Officer, Washington DC

ME:bb

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Region X  
130 228th Street, SW  
Bothell, WA 98021-9796



**FEMA**



OCT 09 2014

Evan R. Lewis, Chief - Environmental and  
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Seattle District Corps of Engineers  
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