

Mud Mountain Dam Fish Passage

In response to Congressional requests, Seattle District has been charged with investigating and designing a long-term solution for upstream fish passage at Mud Mountain Dam. The current upstream trap and haul facility is co-located with a diversion dam, 6 miles downstream of Mud Mountain dam. The diversion dam, constructed by a private entity, known as Puget Sound Energy (PSE) in the early 1900s was originally used to divert water into Lake Tapps for the White River Hydroelectric Project. The diversion dam is integral to fish passage and diverting water into Lake Tapps. The Diversion Dam is in need of rehabilitation or replacement. The stay of license for the dam expired on June 31, 2001, but was extended until an economically feasible solution can be reached. However, PSE has abandoned the project because future operation of the hydroelectric plant appears economically infeasible. Seattle District has determined that a siting-study and alternative evaluation will be the first step in identifying a plan to ensure upstream fish passage at the project. This study will include an investigation of different locations and different alternatives to meet Corps of Engineers up-stream fish passage responsibilities related to the operation of Mud Mountain Dam.

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