LEAVENWORTH SUMMER THEATER (LST) STAGE RELOCATION PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Leavenworth Summer Theater (LST) proposes to relocate the stage facilities and associated infrastructure located on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Leavenworth Hatchery Complex property; parcel #241723510553, Township 24N, Range 17 EWM, Section 23. This project will involve the removal of the existing LST stage facilities and infrastructure, and the construction of replacement facilities in a new location on the subject property that is better suited to the long-term needs of both the LST and USFWS. Because the proposed action involves decisions on modifying federal infrastructure, an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a public review process are necessary in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has authority to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project, as they relate to the modification of federally controlled lands under their jurisdiction. Therefore the USFWS is designated as the lead agency for the NEPA review of this project.

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicant proposes to construct replacement Leavenworth Summer Theater (LST) stage facilities and infrastructure on the subject property, parcel #241723510553 (Figures 1-5; Photographs 1-8). The project will be entirely located on the U.S. Department of Interior parcel #241723510553; also known as the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery. The replacement project is needed due to the deteriorating condition of the existing stage facility, caused by age and water damage due to drainage issues at the current location. The replacement facility will be relocated to a different portion of the subject property, approximately 1700 ft south of the existing location and within a physically modified but undeveloped portion of the parcel. The relocation is required in order to: avoid future structural damage to LST infrastructure due to poor site drainage; lessen the noise and light impact to surrounding private residences; and eliminate conflicts with existing hatchery activities, including daily hatchery visitation, operations, and seasonal fire-fighting camps.

The proposed project site will be accessed off of Cyo Road and will include: the expansion of the existing graveled public parking area; use of existing hatchery access roads and the non-motorized trail system for both vehicle and pedestrian access to the theater site; the extension of existing electrical power to service trail lighting, the theater, and the concessions areas; creating permanent theater seating for 650 in front of the stage (chairs to be removed off-season and stored); the installation of a technical booth; the installation of a replacement stage facility and backstage storage area and dressing rooms; the installation of seasonal lighting along the pedestrian trail system; the addition of mulch or other approved material onto the existing access road system for dust control; the installation of interpretive educational signage adjacent to the pedestrian route; and the landscaping of the berm on the southeast side of the theater area with native plants. As part of the project, the applicant also proposes to remove the existing stage structure facilities at their current location within the main hatchery complex.

In total the proposed project will encompass approximately 0.67 acres of developed space (29,304 sq. ft). The replacement facilities will be of similar dimensions to the existing
facilities, with a replacement footprint of approximately 11,000 sq. ft in total. No additional theater infrastructure beyond the replacement is proposed at this time. The project will utilize the existing network of trails and access roads already located within the parcel. No additional trail or road construction is required as part of this project. The project will require the expansion of the existing graveled public parking area located off of Cyro Road. This area is already modified in nature and is utilized as gathering space for Icicle Outfitters horseback riding in the summer months and the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club in the winter months. Both organizations are aware of the proposed expansion and do not object to the improvements. The increased parking area will encompass approximately 18,604 sq. ft of newly developed space. Individual project elements are discussed in detail below.

As part of the project, the applicant proposes to increase the capacity of the existing graveled public parking area located adjacent to Cyro Road. The area of expansion is approximately 18,604 sq. ft in size and abuts the southern edge of the existing public parking area. Soils in the vicinity of the proposed parking lot expansion are sandy in nature and are sparsely vegetated with weedy herbaceous species. No mature vegetation will be removed as a result of this expansion. Preparation of the site will require the grading of the site for stormwater management and possibly the addition of appropriate material over the entire surface for dust control. Stormwater management will conform to Department of Ecology guidelines for Eastern Washington. The increase in public parking will service the proposed LST project and will also be utilized during the remainder of the year by the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, Leavenworth Winter Sports Club, Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort, Icicle Creek Center for the Arts, and other community-based organizations under permit from the hatchery.

Prior to the installation of the theater seating area, concessions and technical booths, and stage building, an extension to the existing electrical service will be installed from northwest to southeast across the project area (Figure 5). The electrical extension will be approximately 442 ft in length and will be housed within existing 4-inch electrical conduit. The northwestern portion of the extension will be connected via the existing pump house, which services the hatchery facilities. The southeastern portion of the extension will connect to the stage building and concessions booth. The electrical extension will be installed in compliance with all Chelan County, international, and state building codes as required by Chelan County Community Development. All agencies with jurisdiction will be consulted prior to installation. No upgrades to the electrical components within the pump house will be required, as the building has already been outfitted to accommodate future electrical expansion within this portion of the property. Minor amounts of trenching will be required as part of the construction of this project element. Trenching will be located within the right-of-way of existing trails and access roads and will not require the removal of any mature vegetation.

The theater site will be graded prior to the construction of all structures. Grading will be completed utilizing small scale excavation and grading equipment. No export or import of material is required for the site grading. Grading will be limited to the foundations of the proposed buildings and to the theater seating area; an area no greater than 11,000 sq. ft. Grading will prepare the site for construction, will contour the site for proper stormwater
management away from structures, and will provide for theater seating. The base for theater seating will be raised, with a 6-inch rise per row, and permanent. Stormwater at the site will remain similar to pre-development conditions as the constructed slopes will be at the same or shallower slope as the existing slopes. Additional stormwater flow control will not be required. During construction, standard best management practices will be used to limit the potential for erosion. Any excess material generated through the grading process will be utilized to enhance the existing dirt berm which surrounds the southeastern perimeter of the site. After construction is completed, this berm will be planted with native vegetation and will be landscaped with wood mulch to prevent future erosion. The planting will act as mitigation for any unintentional impacts to native vegetation that may result from the construction of the proposed project. Landscaping will encompass approximately 3000 sq. ft. Plants will be purchased from an appropriate native plant nursery and will be consistent with species found within the region.

The stage building and seating will be constructed after grading is complete and electricity has been extended to the site. Utilities within the buildings will be limited to electrical. No plumbing will be installed as part of this project. Both buildings will be constructed in compliance with Chelan County building code, international building code, and state building code as required by Chelan County Community Development. All agencies with jurisdiction will be consulted prior to construction. Buildings will conform to the standards set forth in the Chelan County Municipal Code for areas zoned Rural Public Lands and Facilities (RP), with a maximum building height not to exceed 50 ft.

Seasonal lighting will be installed adjacent to the proposed pedestrian route. Lighting will be limited to low-wattage lights. Lighting will only be installed during the LST operating season, mid-June through Labor Day. Lighting will be removed and stored during the non-operating portions of the year. Lighting will not block any existing trail junctions and will be the minimum necessary required for public safety.

Educational interpretive signage will be installed adjacent to the proposed pedestrian route. Signage will include information on the activities of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery and will encourage LST guests to visit the main hatchery visitor center at another time. Materials will educate guests on aspects of the hatchery property, including information on local flora and fauna as well as history. Signage will mitigate for any lost educational opportunities that may result due to the relocation of the LST stage away from its current location within the main hatchery facility.

The proposed ADA shuttle route will be enhanced with mulch for dust control. Mulch will be of organic materials such as woodchips or bark. The application of mulch will be limited to the minimum necessary to offer satisfactory improvement; and materials used will be chosen in consultation with the hatchery in order to avoid unintended conflicts with winter trail grooming. Mulch may be added yearly or as-needed to control dust along the shuttle route.

After construction of the new LST theater facility is completed, the old LST theater buildings will be removed from the hatchery property. Demolition of the buildings will comply with
any local or state regulations, and all agencies with jurisdiction will be notified before demolition occurs. All materials will be disposed of in an appropriate upland location.

During construction of the proposed project, every effort will be made to minimize disturbance to the environment and neighboring community. Construction hours will be limited to 7 AM to 7 PM Monday through Saturday. Dust control will be provided, and appropriate erosion and sediment control practices will be implemented to minimize any potential impact to the environment and the community.

B.  PROJECT LOCATION, OWNERSHIP, AND JURISDICTION

The proposed project is located on parcel #241723510553, approximately 3.5 miles southwest of the town of Leavenworth, WA within rural Chelan County; Township 24N, Range 17 EWM, Section 23 (Figure 1). The parcel is owned by the United States Department of Interior and is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the Leavenworth National Hatchery Complex. The site is under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Interior.

![Figure 1. Vicinity Map](image)

C.  EXISTING CONDITIONS

The LST stage facilities and associated infrastructure are located within the main complex of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery grounds; accessed off of Hatchery Road approximately 2 miles south of the City of Leavenworth, WA. The stage facilities and infrastructure encompass approximately 11,000 sq. ft. of flat to moderately sloping terrain dominated by lawngrass and horticultural landscaping species. The existing stage facilities were built at the current location in 1992 and are operated seasonally between the months
of June and September by the Leavenworth Summer Theater (LST), who host 2 to 3 evening performances per week within the months of July to September. The stage facilities are currently in decline due to age and deterioration and are in need of replacement. Given the need for replacement, the LST and USFWS have taken this opportunity to consider an alternative location for the rebuilding of the stage facilities that would be better suited to the long-term operations of the hatchery and the LST.

D. PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the proposed project is to replace the aging LST stage facilities and associated infrastructure at a different location within the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery property that would be more conducive to the activities of both the LST and the USFWS.

The current site of the LST stage facilities and infrastructure was originally chosen because it was conveniently located within a grassy portion of the main hatchery complex not used for fish production. However, the site has a number of problems which have led to unforeseen maintenance issues over the life of the facilities. The stage facilities are located adjacent to the drain field of the main hatchery complex. Septic fluid occasionally percolates up from the ground and causes a public health concern within the vicinity of the theater. Additionally, due to its proximity to the drain field, the basement of the stage facilities frequently floods, making the space unusable for storage, while also creating a source of moisture which has led to the deterioration of the wooden stage building located above.

Parking within close proximity to the stage facilities is limited at the current location. Theater guests are required to park on the northern half of the hatchery complex and walk through the main working portion of the hatchery facilities in order to reach the theater. This northern half of the hatchery complex is utilized during wildfire season as the mobilization hub for wildland firefighters. During the seasonal wildfire camp, parking for the theater performances is relocated into the main hatchery complex, which directly impacts hatchery operations, creates a safety hazard for theater guests, and results in additional work on behalf of the theater and hatchery staff.

Several other ongoing issues are also associated with the current location. The stage facilities and infrastructure are located in close proximity to a number of private residences. Sound amplification and light pollution from the nightly performances impacts these surrounding households. During performances, the main hatchery entrance is closed to through traffic which affects one private residence and any hatchery guests and staff who typically utilize this main entrance. The walking trail located on the south side of the stage facilities is also closed to recreational use during performances. This directly affects walkers, bike riders, and horseback riders. On occasion, recreational trail users fail to notice the closure, and enter the theater area during performances, causing disruption.

Due to the deterioration of the stage facilities and its associated infrastructure resulting from age and ongoing maintenance issues, it is time for the LST and USFWS to consider replacement options. Given that a full replacement of the stage facilities is required for the
continued operation of the theater, it is possible to use this timing as an opportunity to relocate the facilities to an alternative location within the hatchery grounds which will pose less of a burden on both the USFWS and the LST over the long-term while improving the visitor experience for both theater-goers and other users of the site. An alternatives analysis and potential impacts associated with this relocation are discussed below.
II. ALTERNATIVES

A. INTRODUCTION

Included below is a description of the “No Action” alternative, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The “No Action” alternative provides a common baseline from which to evaluate the environmental impacts of the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative derives from the collaboration of the USFWS, the LST, and additional stakeholders with an interest in the project including the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club, Icicle Outfitters, and Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort.

1. No Action Alternative- Stage Facilities Replacement and Continued LST Operations in the Current Location

The No Action Alternative involves the continued operation of the LST within its current location. The stage facilities would be fully replaced in the footprint of the existing building. Any on-going maintenance and operation issues associated with this site and as outlined above would remain unchanged, including public health hazards due to sewage seepage, facility damage due to flooding, parking impacts on hatchery and seasonal fire camp operations, trail and road closures during performances, and sound and light impacts to surrounding private residences. This alternative assumes that there would be no substantial changes to the operations of the LST.

2. Preferred Alternative- Stage Facilities Replacement in An Alternative Location Within the Same Parcel

The Preferred Alternative involves the relocation of the LST stage facilities and its associated infrastructure to a new location within the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery parcel. The proposed site is located approximately 1700 ft to the south of the current site and is undeveloped but already modified due to its current use as a gravel storage facility for Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery internal projects. The proposed site is relatively isolated and is located over 475 ft away from any existing occupied permanent structures or residences. Due to its isolated nature, the site would have minimal impacts on the daily operations of the main complex of the fish hatchery, the seasonal wildfire camp, or to surrounding residences, offices, and commercial establishments. Drainage within the proposed location is suitable to the construction of the LST stage facilities and no long-term maintenance issues are expected to arise as a result of flooding or water damage. Public parking and access to the site are already established at the proposed location. Improvements to the existing parking area would service not only the activities of the LST but also the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery itself and surrounding businesses and organizations such as the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club, Icicle Outfitters, Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort, and Icicle Creek Center for the Arts. No traffic impacts are expected to occur as a result of the project since the parking area is already established and located adjacent to several commercial operations and away from any residential areas. Surrounding landowners and businesses have been consulted during the design phase of the project and are not opposed to the proposed relocation. No other alternative sites elsewhere on the hatchery property are suitable for relocating the theater.
III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND PROJECT IMPACTS

Below is a discussion of the potential environmental impacts associated with both the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative. Direct, indirect, and cumulative future impacts were assessed based on the best available science at the time of publication. Data used in the analysis are available by citation within the reference section, with visual documentation included as Attachment A.

A. CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Affected Environment

The Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery and surrounding properties have a long history of use by multiple Native American tribes endemic to the region, including members of the Yakama Nation and the Colville Confederated Tribes. Tribal members still utilize the hatchery property for exercising their sovereign rights associated with the traditional fishing of salmonids within Icicle Creek. Therefore, it is important that any potential conflicts of use or cultural artifacts are identified within the vicinity of the project location prior to project construction. Additionally, the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery buildings within the main hatchery complex, as well as the diversion channel and other structures, are listed on the state historic preservation register and are a National Historic Landmark. It is therefore also important to recognize any impacts to historic structures that would result from the proposed project.

1. Preferred Alternative Impact Assessment

It is determined that no significant impact to cultural and historic resources will result from the relocation of the LST stage facilities to the new preferred location. In July of 2018, a cultural study was completed by the Department of Interior at the site of the preferred alternative location for the LST stage facilities. No archaeological sites or cultural artifacts were identified at the project site during the study. However, the year after the study was concluded, underground historic pipe was exposed due to rodent activity. The cultural resource staff person advised marking the area, re-burying the pipe, and avoiding the spot during construction. Further investigative excavation can take place at a later date, and will not interfere with theater operations. If artifacts are inadvertently discovered during the construction process, work will stop immediately and the USFWS regional archaeologist and Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) will be notified for consultation. The preferred location of the LST stage facilities is also located approximately 1700 ft south of the historic fish hatchery buildings. No impact to the historic hatchery buildings will result from the relocation of the LST stage facilities to this new location. Demolition of the existing stage facilities within the main hatchery complex will also not result in any impacts to the historically listed buildings. Additionally, after project completion tribes will continue to maintain access to fishing platforms located adjacent to Icicle Creek with no interruption. No detrimental impacts to existing or future use of the property by the tribes, to cultural resources contained within the property, or to historic buildings will result from the proposed project.
2. No-Action Alternative Impact Assessment

It is determined that no significant impact to cultural and historic resources will result from the demolition and rebuilding of the LST stage facilities within its current location at the main hatchery complex. The existing LST stage facilities are located approximately 241 ft from the historically listed hatchery buildings. No cultural resources have been identified within the vicinity of the existing LST stage facilities. No detrimental impacts to existing or future use of the property by the tribes, to cultural resources contained within the property, or to historic buildings will result from the proposed replacement project at the current location.

B. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Affected Environment

Per the USGS ATTRA online soil mapper, soils within the subject property are primarily composed of Brief gravelly sandy loam, 0-8 percent slopes, Leavenworth loamy sand, Leavenworth fine sandy loam, and riverwash. Per Chelan County GIS, soils in the project areas are not mapped as containing erosive soils or landslide hazards. Soils on the property are listed as Prime Farmland if Irrigated. However, the property does not have a history of commercial agricultural use and no farmland will be converted to other uses as a result of this project.

1. Preferred Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to/from geology and soils will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the proposed new location. The site is already modified in nature and minimal amounts of excavation are required for preparation and grading prior to the installation of the foundation. The site is dominated by coarse sandy soils of minimal slope and is located outside of mapped geologic hazards including erosive soils and landslide hazards. The installation of the replacement facilities will not result in any current or future impact to geology or soils within this location nor will any current or future geologic risk be imparted to any infrastructure installed at this site.

2. No-Action Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to/from geology and soils will result from the rebuilding of the replacement stage facilities at the current location. The site is already modified in nature and is located outside of mapped geologic hazards including erosive soils and landslide hazards. The installation of the replacement facilities will not result in any current or future impact to geology or soils within this location nor will any current or future geologic risk be imparted to any infrastructure installed at this site.
C. GROUND WATER, SURFACE WATER, AND FLOODPLAINS

Affected Environment

The subject parcel is located adjacent to the Icicle River, which has been historically modified at this location with an artificial diversion canal built for supplying water to the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery operations. No other sources of surface water are present on the parcel. Per Chelan County GIS and FIRM mapping, no mapped FEMA floodplains are located within the vicinity of the project area. Icicle Creek is not mapped as a National Wild and Scenic River. Further, the property does not contain any sole source aquifers as mapped by USGS.

1. Preferred Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to ground water, surface water, or floodplains will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the proposed new location. There will be no discharges to ground or surface waters as a result of this project. The proposed site is located over 200 ft from the diversion canal and Icicle Creek, and all project elements are located outside of shoreline jurisdiction. The proposed site is not located within a mapped FEMA floodplain. The installation of the replacement facilities will not result in any current or future detrimental impact to ground water, surface water, the floodplain, or the shoreline of the Icicle River.

2. No-Action Alternative Impact Assessment

The stage facilities located at the current site are impacted by the presence of ground water. Due to the proximity of the existing infrastructure to the drain field of the hatchery complex, ground water from the drain field infiltrates the basement of the stage facilities. This infiltration of ground water into the basement of the building limits the storage capacity of the basement and has led to the deterioration of the wooden stage located above, thus prompting the need for replacement. However, it has been determined that the replacement project itself will have no significant impact to ground water, surface water, or floodplains at the existing location. There will be no discharges to ground or surface waters as a result of this project. The existing site is located over 200 ft from the diversion canal and Icicle Creek, and all project elements are located outside of shoreline jurisdiction. The proposed site is not located within a mapped FEMA floodplain. The installation of the replacement facilities will not result in any current or future detrimental impact to ground water, surface water, the floodplain, or the shoreline of the Icicle River.

D. WETLANDS

Affected Environment

Per the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) online mapper, the subject property abuts but does not overlap several Palustrine Scrub-Shrub Seasonally Flooded Diked/Impounded (PSSCh) wetlands on the eastern boundary of the property. The historic artificial diversion
canal is mapped as a Lacustrine Limnetic Unconsolidated Bottom Permanently Flooded (L1UBH) system. No additional wetlands are mapped within the subject parcel.

1. Preferred Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to wetlands will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the proposed new location. Mapped wetlands are located more than 200 ft from the project site. As a result, the project will not affect wetland buffers or wetland habitat. The installation of the replacement facilities will not result in any current or future detrimental impact to wetlands located on or in the vicinity of the subject parcel.

2. No-Action Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to wetlands will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the existing location. Mapped wetlands are located more than 200 ft from the project site. As a result, the project will not affect wetland buffers or wetland habitat. The installation of the replacement facilities will not result in any current or future detrimental impact to wetlands located on or in the vicinity of the subject parcel.

E. Air and Water Quality

Affected Environment

The project site is located two miles from the access point to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area and is approximately three miles south of the City of Leavenworth, WA. Icicle Creek runs through the eastern portion of the parcel. The subject parcel is primarily undeveloped with the exception of the infrastructure associated with the main hatchery complex of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, USFWS fisheries offices, and an extensive trail network utilized by hikers, bikers, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers.

Air quality standards are monitored by the EPA under the Clean Air Act. Utilizing EPA mapping of Counties Designated “Nonattainment” it was determined that no air quality issues are present within the vicinity of the site.

Water quality within Icicle Creek is monitored by the Department of Ecology under their 303d and TMDL programs. Utilizing mapped DOE 303d data, Icicle Creek is listed as containing 4,4’-DDE and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) adjacent to and just downstream of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery main hatchery complex. Utilizing the DOE TMDL listing by county, the Wenatchee River Watershed, which includes Icicle Creek, is listed for Dissolved Oxygen and pH, Fecal Coliform, and Temperature.

1. Preferred Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to air or water quality will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the proposed new location. There will be no increase in air pollution emissions as the project is a replacement of an already existing use within the property. Emissions generated at the site would be limited to that which are
generated by passenger vehicles accessing the parking area and any small motorized equipment used in the general maintenance of the facility including weed whips and leaf blowers. There will be no impact to water quality as the project will not generate any pollutants that would be released to ground or surface waters. This is a dry site, with no plumbing or irrigation. No gray water will be produced at the site. There will not be a septic system installed as part of this project. All human waste will be disposed of utilizing portable toilets that will be serviced regularly by a professional sanitation company. Any potable water will be brought in and sold at the concession booth. All stormwater will remain at the site and will not enter surface waters. The installation of the replacement facilities at the new location will not result in any current or future detrimental impact to air or water quality within the vicinity of the project area.

2. No-Action Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to air or water quality will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the existing location. There will be no increase in air pollution emissions as the project is a replacement of an already existing use within the property. Emissions generated at the site would be limited to that which are generated by passenger vehicles accessing the parking area and any small motorized equipment used in the general maintenance of the facility including weed whips, leaf blowers, or lawn mowers. There will be no impact to water quality as the project will not generate any pollutants that would be released to ground or surface waters. This site has no plumbing, and irrigation is not managed by LST but by the hatchery. No gray water will be produced at the site. There will not be a septic system installed as part of this project. All human waste will be disposed of utilizing portable toilets that will be serviced regularly by a professional sanitation company. Any potable water will be brought in and sold at the concession booth. All stormwater will remain at the site and will not enter surface waters. The installation of the replacement facilities at the current location will not result in any current or future detrimental impact to air or water quality within the vicinity of the project area.

F. Vegetation

Affected Environment

The project site is located within the Ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa) forest of eastern Washington State. Vegetation on the property is dominated by mature Ponderosa pine, with an understory of shrub and herbaceous species including, but not limited to, big sagebrush (Artemesia tridentata), bitterbrush (Purshia tridentata), buckbrush (Ceanothus cuneatus), oceanspray (Holodiscus discolor), dalmatian toadflax (Linaria dalmatica), cascade aster (Aster ledophyllus), cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum), common yarrow (Achillea millefolium), and arrowleaf balsamroot (Balsamorhiza sagittata). According to the USFWS IPaC mapper, Showy Stickseed (Hackelia venusta)-Endangered, and Wenatchee Mountains Checkermallow (Sidaicea oregana var. calva)-Endangered, are listed as occurring on or near the site. However, neither species have been observed within the vicinity of the project location.
1. Preferred Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to vegetation will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the new preferred location. The location is sparsely vegetated with common weedy herbaceous and grass species. No listed species have been observed at the site. A minimal amount of vegetation will be removed in order to accommodate the building of the new stage facilities. However, no mature vegetation will be removed from the site and approximately 3000 sq. ft of native vegetation will be installed on the dirt berm located on the southeast side of the site as mitigation for any potential impacts to vegetation which may occur as a result of the project. The installation of the replacement facilities at the new location will not result in any current or future detrimental impact to listed vegetation within the vicinity of the project area.

2. No-Action Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to vegetation will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the existing location. The location is dominated by lawngrass and horticultural landscape species. No listed species have been observed at the site. No vegetation will be removed for the replacement of the stage facilities at this location. The installation of the replacement facilities at the existing location will not result in any current or future detrimental impact to listed vegetation within the vicinity of the project area.

G. Fish

Affected Environment

The Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery sits adjacent to Icicle Creek. Species raised at the hatchery include spring chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). According to the WDFW Salmonscape mapper other species present within Icicle Creek include native salmonids, mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), eastern brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)-Threatened.

1. Preferred Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to wild fish will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the new preferred location. The stage facilities and associated infrastructure will be located greater than 200 ft from Icicle Creek and the man-made diversion channel. All buildings, access trails, and roads will be located outside of shoreline jurisdiction. The site will not be producing or discharging any waste products into surface waters, nor will any impacts to the shoreline environment occur as a result of the project. The installation of the replacement facilities at the proposed new location will not result in any current or future detrimental impacts to listed fish within the vicinity of
the project area. Concerns about impacts to hatchery fish would remain the same as they currently are.

2. No-Action Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to wild fish will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the existing location. The stage facilities and associated infrastructure are located greater than 200 ft from Icicle Creek and the man-made diversion channel. All buildings, access trails, and roads are located outside of shoreline jurisdiction. The site does not produce or discharge any waste products into surface waters, nor will any impacts to the shoreline environment occur as a result of the project. The installation of the replacement facilities at the existing location will not result in any current or future detrimental impacts to listed fish within the vicinity of the project area. Concerns about impacts to hatchery fish would remain the same as they currently are.

H. WILDLIFE INCLUDING THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SPECIES OF CONCERN

Affected Environment

The WDFW PHS mapping tool indicates that the following species may be located on or near the project area: golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)-Breeding Area, grizzly bear (Ursus horribilis arctos)-Occurrence, little brown bat (Myotis lucifugus)-Communal Roost, northern spotted owl (Strix occidentalis)-Management Buffer, and Yuma myotis (Myotis yumanensis)-Communal Roost. The USFWS IPaC species mapper also includes the following species which may be located on or near the project area: Canada lynx (Lynx canadensis)-Threatened, gray wolf (Canis lupus)-Endangered, northern wolverine (Gulo gulo)-Proposed Threatened, marbled murrelet (Brachyramphus marmoratus)-Threatened, yellow-billed cuckoo (Coccyzus americanus)-Threatened, and nine species of migratory birds that are listed on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern list. The site is recognized as providing habitat for other mammals including but not limited to, mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus), black bear (Ursus ursus), coyote (Canis latrans), bobcat (Lynx rufus), raccoon (Procyon loter), and river otter (Lontra canadensis). The site is also part of the western migration route for waterfowl and song birds.

1. Preferred Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to wildlife will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the new preferred location. Although the nine listed migratory bird species have been documented as utilizing the hatchery grounds, none of the additionally listed PHS or IPaC species have been noted as occurring at the property. As the proposed new site is already modified in nature (utilized as gravel storage), the installation of the project is not expected to alter use of the area by migratory bird species or mammals. Additionally, much of the activities of the LST occur outside of the primary bird migration season (March-early June) and are not expected to affect migratory bird use of the property. No mature vegetation will be removed from the site as a result of project installation. A 3000 sq. ft native vegetation planting will be installed to the southeast of the
project site as mitigation for any potential impacts resulting from the removal of the sparse cover of weedy herbaceous species within the project site. The mitigation planting of native species will enhance the existing native vegetation and will afford migratory bird species and the resident mammal population additional food and refuge options within the vicinity of the project site. No fencing will be installed at the site which would inhibit animal movement across the property. The installation of the replacement facilities at the proposed new location will not result in any current or future detrimental impacts to listed wildlife within the vicinity of the project area.

2. No-Action Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to wildlife will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the existing location. Although the nine listed migratory bird species have been documented as utilizing the hatchery grounds, none of the additionally listed PHS or IPaC species have been noted as occurring at the property. The site is already modified in nature and dominated by lawngrass and horticultural landscape species. Replacement of the building onto the existing footprint would not lead to any increase of impact to PHS or IPaC listed species. The installation of the replacement facilities at the existing location will not result in any current or future detrimental impacts to listed wildlife within the vicinity of the project area.

1. Toxic, Radioactive, Explosive, and Flammable Materials

Affected Environment

Toxic, Radioactive, Explosive, and Flammable Materials within the vicinity of the project area are tracked by the Department of Ecology. Historically the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery has had up to 5 storage tanks for fuels and hazardous materials on-site; all of which have since been removed. Removal records are present within the DOE storage tank database.

1. Preferred Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact due to toxic, radioactive, explosive, and flammable materials will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the new preferred location. The project will not generate or utilize any materials deemed toxic, radioactive, explosive or flammable. The project is not located within the vicinity of any materials deemed toxic, radioactive, explosive or flammable. The installation of the replacement facilities at the proposed new location will not result in any current or future detrimental impacts resulting from toxic, radioactive, explosive, and flammable materials within the vicinity of the project area.

2. No-Action Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact due to toxic, radioactive, explosive, and flammable materials will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the existing location. The project does not generate or utilize any materials deemed toxic, radioactive, explosive or flammable. The project is not located within the vicinity of any
materials deemed toxic, radioactive, explosive or flammable. The installation of the replacement facilities at the existing location will not result in any current or future detrimental impacts resulting from toxic, radioactive, explosive, and flammable materials within the vicinity of the project area.

J. LAND USE

Affected Environment

The Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery is owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior and is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Chelan County zoning of the parcel is Rural Public Lands and Facilities (RP). Under this zoning designation, the hatchery contracts with a number of recreational vendors including Icicle Outfitters, the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club, and the Leavenworth Summer Theater as allowed under CCC Chapter 11.04.020. All development within this zone must adhere to CCC 11.28.020. The shoreline environment of the property is designated as ‘Conservancy’ within the Chelan County Shoreline Master Program (CCSMP). As defined by the CCSMP, Conservancy shorelines have a 100 ft required riparian buffer and 200 ft of shoreline jurisdiction for all land use actions. The property is located within a rural portion of Chelan County and is surrounded by a number of private residences and commercial lodging facilities.

1. Preferred Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to land uses will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the new preferred location. The project will be completed in compliance with CCC 11.28.020, with structures not exceeding 50 ft in height. The site is located away from all existing and known lot lines and easements. Operation of the LST is consistent with recreation/tourist activities allowed on other federally owned and operated lands and is an allowed use under CCC Chapter 11.04.020 on properties zoned (RP). All portions of the project are located outside of the 200 ft shoreline jurisdiction. The new preferred location is relatively isolated in nature and therefore limits any negative impacts to the daily operations of the main hatchery complex and any surrounding private residences. The installation of the replacement facilities at the proposed new location will not result in any current or future detrimental impacts to land uses within the vicinity of the project area.

2. No-Action Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that minor impacts to land uses will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the existing location. The project will be completed in compliance with CCC 11.28.020, with structures not exceeding 50 ft in height. The site is located away from all existing and known lot lines and easements. Operation of the LST is consistent with recreation/tourist activities allowed on other federally owned and operated lands and is an allowed use under CCC Chapter 11.04.020 on properties zoned (RP). All portions of the project are located outside of the 200 ft shoreline jurisdiction. However, the site is located within the main hatchery complex and is in close proximity to neighboring
residential parcels. Therefore, the existing location of the LST will continue to pose a minor impact on the daily operations of the USFWS and to the surrounding residential areas due to traffic, noise and light. The installation of the replacement facilities at the existing location will result in current and future minor detrimental impacts to land uses within the vicinity of the project area.

K. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY

Affected Environment

Environmental justice can be assessed by utilizing the EPA’s Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool. Based on the results obtained utilizing this tool, no environmental justice issues were noted within the vicinity of the subject parcel. Human health and safety can be assessed by utilizing the National Institute of Health TOXMAP tool. Based on the results obtained utilizing this tool, no human health and safety issues were noted within the vicinity of the subject parcel. Additional information regarding health and human safety within the site is anecdotal in nature. Based on conversations with hatchery staff, it can be noted that occasionally sewage from the drain field at the main hatchery complex percolates up through the ground. This can be considered a temporary health hazard. Additionally, the movement of visitors through the main hatchery complex and in the vicinity of the rearing ponds at night is also a minor hazard to health and safety due to the risk of injury.

1. Preferred Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no significant impact to environmental justice and human health and safety will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the new preferred location. The activities of the LST are available to all; regardless of race, religion, ability, or sexual orientation. No environmental justice issues are associated with the completion of this project. No impact to human health and safety will result from the completion of this project. Parking areas and pedestrian pathways will be lit for safety. An ADA compliant shuttle service is available for those visitors in need of extra assistance in reaching the site. Activities of the LST are not associated with any increased risk of injury or mortality. The installation of the replacement facilities at the new preferred location will not result in any current or future impacts to environmental justice or human health and safety within the vicinity of the project area.

2. No-Action Alternative Impact Assessment

It was determined that no impact to environmental justice and minor impacts to human health and safety will result from the installation of the replacement stage facilities at the existing location. The activities of the LST are available to all; regardless of race, religion, ability, or sexual orientation. No environmental justice issues are associated with the completion of this project. Minor impacts to human health and safety would result from the risk of exposure to sewage water associated with the proximity of the site to the drain field of the main hatchery complex and from the movement of visitors through the main...
hatchery complex and in the vicinity of the rearing ponds at night. This assumption of risk is based off of anecdotal reports from hatchery staff of the occurrence of similar incidents in the past at this location. In general, human health and safety will not be impacted as a result of this project. Parking areas and pedestrian pathways are lit for safety. An ADA compliant shuttle service is available for those visitors in need of extra assistance in reaching the site. Activities of the LST are not associated with any increased risk of injury or mortality. The installation of the replacement facilities at the existing location will not result in any current or future impacts to environmental justice and will result in minor impacts to human health and safety within the vicinity of the project area.
IV. IMPACT AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

As part of the replacement of the Leavenworth Summer Theater (LST) stage facilities and associated infrastructure, consideration has been given to the minimization and avoidance of activities that could cause detrimental impacts to the surrounding environment including those impacts that would affect native plants and animals, water, land, and cultural resources, and human health and safety.

- The project has been designed to utilize an already modified portion of the parcel for the replacement of the LST stage facilities. The proposed site is currently being used as a gravel storage facility. Access to the site utilizes existing trail and road networks that are located outside of the 200 ft shoreline. By utilizing an existing modified site and existing trails and roads for access, the applicant has avoided further impacts to unmodified portions of the upland and shoreline environments and to any potential cultural artifacts or historical buildings located on the site.

- By locating the stage facilities in a relatively remote portion of the parcel, the applicant has also minimized impacts to the daily operations of the main hatchery complex, the seasonal fire camp, and surrounding residences and businesses.

- By locating the expanded parking area in a portion of the property that is already modified in nature and is adjacent to an existing public parking area with an existing public access point, the applicant has further minimized impacts by avoiding the removal of mature vegetation and the alteration of the existing road to accommodate on-site parking.

- The operating schedule of the LST avoids conflict with other vendors utilizing the hatchery property due to temporal differences in use. Impacts to winter usage of the site are avoided by removing the seasonal trail lighting, removing chairs, and utilizing materials for dust management that are approved by the hatchery.

- By relocating the LST stage facilities and infrastructure, the applicant also avoids any potential future impacts to human health caused by the proximity of the current site to the drain field of the main hatchery complex and by eliminating any risk associated with the movement of visitors through the main hatchery complex and in the vicinity of the rearing ponds at night.

- The applicant proposes to install interpretive signage along the pedestrian trail to the theater in order to encourage visitation to the main hatchery complex while providing information on the history of the hatchery, and on the flora and fauna contained within the property. This signage will minimize any lost opportunity to educate the public on the role of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery caused by relocating the stage facilities to a location outside of the main hatchery complex.

- Finally, the project is designed to avoid the removal of any mature vegetation. Impacts to vegetation and migratory birds are minimized by installing 3000 sq. ft
of native vegetation on the dirt berm located on the southeast side of the site. This mitigation planting will enhance the existing vegetation within the vicinity of the site and will increase forage and cover opportunities for birds and mammals utilizing the property.
V. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY CONSULTATION

The design phase of the project has included input from USFWS staff, current USFWS vendors, and surrounding businesses including the Leavenworth Summer Theater, Icicle Outfitters, the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club, and Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort. Agency consultation has included the professional opinion of USFWS biologists in regard to impacts related to listed species. A cultural survey was performed in the project area in 2018 by the USFWS regional archeologist. Furthermore, all agencies with jurisdiction and the public will be notified as part of the NEPA public comment process.
VI. DISCUSSION

Due to age and maintenance issues, the Leavenworth Summer Theater must rebuild the existing stage facilities located at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery complex. Since a rebuild is required, the USFWS and LST have determined that relocating the stage facilities and associated infrastructure to a new location would lessen impacts to the daily operations of the main hatchery complex and to surrounding residences. The relocation would also avoid on-going maintenance and human health and safety issues resulting from the proximity of the existing facilities to the drain field of the main hatchery complex.

It has been determined that the installation of the LST replacement stage facilities and associated infrastructure at the proposed new location within the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery parcel will pose no significant impact to the environment or to human health and safety. The project has been designed to minimize and avoid impacts to the greatest extent possible. Input has been gathered from groups with an interest in the project including affected businesses, who do not oppose the project. Additional public comment will be gathered as part of the NEPA process.
VII.  BIOLOGIST QUALIFICATIONS

Eron Drew is a professional biologist who holds a Bachelor of Science in Geology, Conservation Biology, and Zoology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison with a focus on geomorphology, conservation ecology, and limnology. Professional experience includes over 7 years of natural resource management experience in limnology, fisheries, freshwater ecology, wetland ecology, ESA species protection, and wildlife habitat assessment, management, and mitigation. She has over 13 years of professional experience in agriculture and landscape management within Central Washington, and six years of experience as a WSU Chelan-Douglas Master Gardener and Master Gardener instructor; with over 75 hours of continuing education through the WSU Research Extension in vegetation management including soils, tree and shrub identification, pruning, site and variety selection, trellising and support, fire-wise landscaping, forest health, xeric and native vegetation, plant health diagnosis, and disease and pest management.
VIII. REFERENCES


Chelan County GIS. Online mapping tool. [Maps.co/chelan.wa.us/chelancountyGIS/](Maps.co/chelan.wa.us/chelancountyGIS/). Queried 8/8/19.


Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Priority Habitats and Species online 

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. SalmonScape. Online mapping tool. 
LST STAGE RELOCATION PROJECT; ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PHOTOGRAPHS
Photograph 1. Area of proposed parking area expansion; looking west. No healthy mature trees will be removed to accommodate parking.

Photograph 2. Proposed pedestrian walking trail access utilizing existing unimproved trail system; looking east. USFWS buildings visible on the center left of the photo.
Photograph 3. Portion of proposed ADA shuttle access to theater site utilizing existing unimproved and improved road system; looking northeast. Existing pump house with electrical power is visible in the right of photo.

Photograph 4. Proposed location of new LST stage facilities and associated infrastructure; looking southwest. Site is currently utilized for gravel storage.
Photograph 5. Proposed location of new LST stage facilities and associated infrastructure; looking northeast. Site is currently utilized for gravel storage. The existing pump house is visible in the right of the photo.

Photograph 6. Existing LST stage facilities and infrastructure; looking south.
Photograph 7. Existing entrance to LST stage facilities and infrastructure; looking north. Existing infrastructure and parking is located within the main campus of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery.

Photograph 8. Existing LST stage facilities and infrastructure is located adjacent to the drain field for the main campus of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery; looking west. Due to the proximity of the LST facilities to the drain field, flooding and sewage are an on-going issue.
LST STAGE RELOCATION PROJECT; ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FIGURES
LST STAGE RELOCATION PROJECT; ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ATTACHMENT A: ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW RECORD
11.28.020 Standards.

All development in this zone shall meet the applicable provisions of the Chelan County Code, including without limitation the following:

1. Minimum Lot Size. Lot size shall be in accordance with the Chelan-Douglas Health District standards for public or community water and sewage disposal.


3. Maximum lot coverage: no maximum is required, provided all applicable standards are complied with, including without limitation parking, landscaping and other dimensional requirements.

4. Minimum Setback Distances. Minimum setback requirements shall be as provided in this section except when abutting commercial agricultural lands (AC), riparian and shoreline areas, or as increased by the provisions of this title:
   - (A) Front yard: fifteen feet from the front property line or forty-five feet from the street centerline, whichever is greater.
   - (B) Rear yard: ten feet.
   - (C) Side yard: ten feet.

5. Off-street parking and loading shall be provided as prescribed in Chapter 11.61 of this title.

6. Landscape standards shall be provided as prescribed in Chapter 15.50 of Title 15, Development Standards, as amended. (Res. 2015-13 (Alt. A, B) (part), 6/4/15; Res. 2008-13 (part), 2/5/08; Res. 2007-04 (part), 7/2/07; Res. 2001-60 (part), 4/7/01; Res. 2000-
Soil Map—Chelan County Area, Washington (Parts of Chelan and Kittitas Counties)

Map Unit Legend

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Washington has approximately 71,410 miles of river, of which 197 miles are designated as wild & scenic—less than 0.03% of the state’s river miles.
To: Steve Croci  
Program: Fisheries

From: Zone Archaeologist Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho  
Carla Burnside, Archaeologist

Subject: Section 106 compliance: Community Theater Stage at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, Chelan County, Washington

Thank you for submitting information regarding the project named above. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is proposing to issue a permit for construction of a new Community Theater Stage on property at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, Chelan County, (T24N, R17E, Section 26, Leavenworth 7.5’ USGS Quad) (Figure 1).

Undertaking and APE
This project entails issuing a permit to the non-profit Leavenworth Summer Theater to construct a new outdoor stage on hatchery property. The project will include construction of a new outdoor stage and building, expanding and improving a gravel parking area currently used by recreationalists, and improvements to one or more trails leading from the parking area to the proposed theater site. The project will include reshaping the contours of the theater stage area and adding fill to create an outdoor seating area, construction of a building for the stage and improvements to existing recreational trails. Electricity will be supplied by connecting, via an underground line, to existing power at a well house 500 feet north of the proposed theater area.

The APE is defined as 9 acres. The APE includes all areas in which earth and sediment could be disturbed, as well as a construction staging area adjacent to the theater site.

Background Information
The project area is located at the National Register of Historic Places Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery (NFH), which was placed on the National Register in 1997 as a District. The Hatchery was constructed between 1939 and 1941 by the Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, Colorado office.

The project area is located adjacent to Icicle Creek a tributary of the Wenatchee River. The area is within the traditional area of the Wenatchapam/Wenatchi Band. The project is 1.5 miles upstream from the confluence of Icicle Creek and the Wenatchee River – the location of a major salmon fishery, village and trade center (Ames et al. 1998). Curtis (1911:69) identified the Sinpusquoish Band as the
occupants of this area. Descendants of this band settled on the Colville and Yakama Reservations.

The 1892 Government Land Office map shows the Farnum house north of the APE and a short section of road described in the survey notes as a wagon road. No mention is made in the survey notes of agricultural uses or other activities within the APE.

The Area of Potential Effects is located in the southwestern corner of the hatchery property on the west side of Icicle Creek. The area contains two water wells and underground pipelines used to provide cold water to hatchery facilities in the summer. The area is open for recreational hiking and horseback riding in the summer and for cross-country skiing in the winter. Existing trails in the area are associated with these activities. Parking occurs in a gravel parking lot adjacent to a public road.

A record search of the WA Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) WISAARD database identified the National Register District adjacent to the current project area. Six cultural resource inventories have been conducted within the hatchery boundaries, however no archaeological or historic resources not associated with the National Register District have been identified.

Consultation
The Colville and Yakama Tribes were consulted concerning this project. The Colville THPO concurred with the need for a survey of the project area. No comments were received from the Yakama Tribe.

Recommendations
A cultural resources survey was conducted of the project area and of roads and trails leading to the project area. No cultural resources were identified in this area.

The existence of cultural resources can never be predicted with certainty. In the event that cultural resources are discovered during project implementation, any ground disturbing activity should be halted and the Zone Archaeologist should be notified at the above address. If the planned activities change, please let me know.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call me at 509-893-8007. Thank you for considering cultural resources.
Figure 1. Leavenworth 7.5” USGS Quadrangle