

Title

Interstate 90 Snoqualmie Pass East Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Description of Proposed Action

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Washington State Environmental Policy Act, the Interstate 90 (I-90) Snoqualmie Pass East Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluates environmental conditions within a 15-mile corridor of I-90 in Kittitas County, Washington. The project corridor commences on the eastern side of Snoqualmie Pass at Milepost (MP) 55.10 in Hyak and ends at MP 70.3 near Easton. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) proposes to improve the corridor to meet project needs (avalanches, unstable slopes, structural deficiencies, traffic volume, and ecological connectivity). After considering various route alternatives, WSDOT determined that the common route alternative would be analyzed. Within the common route, four alternative treatments to the Keechelus Lake Alignment and three alternative connectivity improvement packages are considered. The environmental effects of these action alternatives, in addition to the No-Build are presented in this EIS. For more information, go online to <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/I90/SnoqualmiePassEast/>

Proponent and Lead Agency

The WSDOT is the project proponent. The lead agencies are the WSDOT and the Federal Highway Administration.

Responsible Official

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Required Licenses and Permits

Highway improvements are subject to federal, state, and local permit processes. The WSDOT intends to comply fully with substantive permit requirements, including submittal of required project information and plans, project evaluation and review, and appropriate mitigation conditions.

The following may be required prior to project implementation:

United States Forest Service

Land Transfer Request

United States Fish and Wildlife Service/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries

Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation

United States Army Corps of Engineers

404 Permit

Washington Department of Ecology

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Permit, Stormwater Site Plan

401 Water Quality Certification

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Hydraulic Project approval

Kittitas County

Shoreline and Critical Area permits

Authors and Principal Contributors

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement was prepared under the direction of the WSDOT South Central Office. Research and analysis was performed by numerous individuals listed in Chapter 7 of the Draft EIS.

Date of Issue of the Draft EIS

June 2005

Date Draft EIS Comments are Due

You can submit your comments on the Draft EIS beginning on June 10 and closing on August 5, 2005. A comment form is provided at the end of this document for your convenience.

Public Hearings

June 29, 2005 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Ellensburg Inn

1700 Canyon Road

Ellensburg, WA 98926

June 30, 2005 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Summit Inn

603 State Route 906

Snoqualmie Pass, WA 98068

July 7, 2005 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

South Lake Union Naval Reserve Building

860 Terry Avenue N

Seattle, WA 98109

Final Action (for Draft EIS)

A Final Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be circulated in summer 2006.

EIS Availability

Copies of the Draft EIS may be obtained by contacting:

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There is no charge for single copies of the Draft EIS or CD. Copies of this Draft EIS and appendices are located at selected King County Libraries (Bellevue Regional, Issaquah, Lake Hills, Newport Way, North Bend), Ellensburg Library, Cle Elum Library, Central Washington University Library, Seattle Public Library (Downtown Branch Only), and the Washington State Library.

