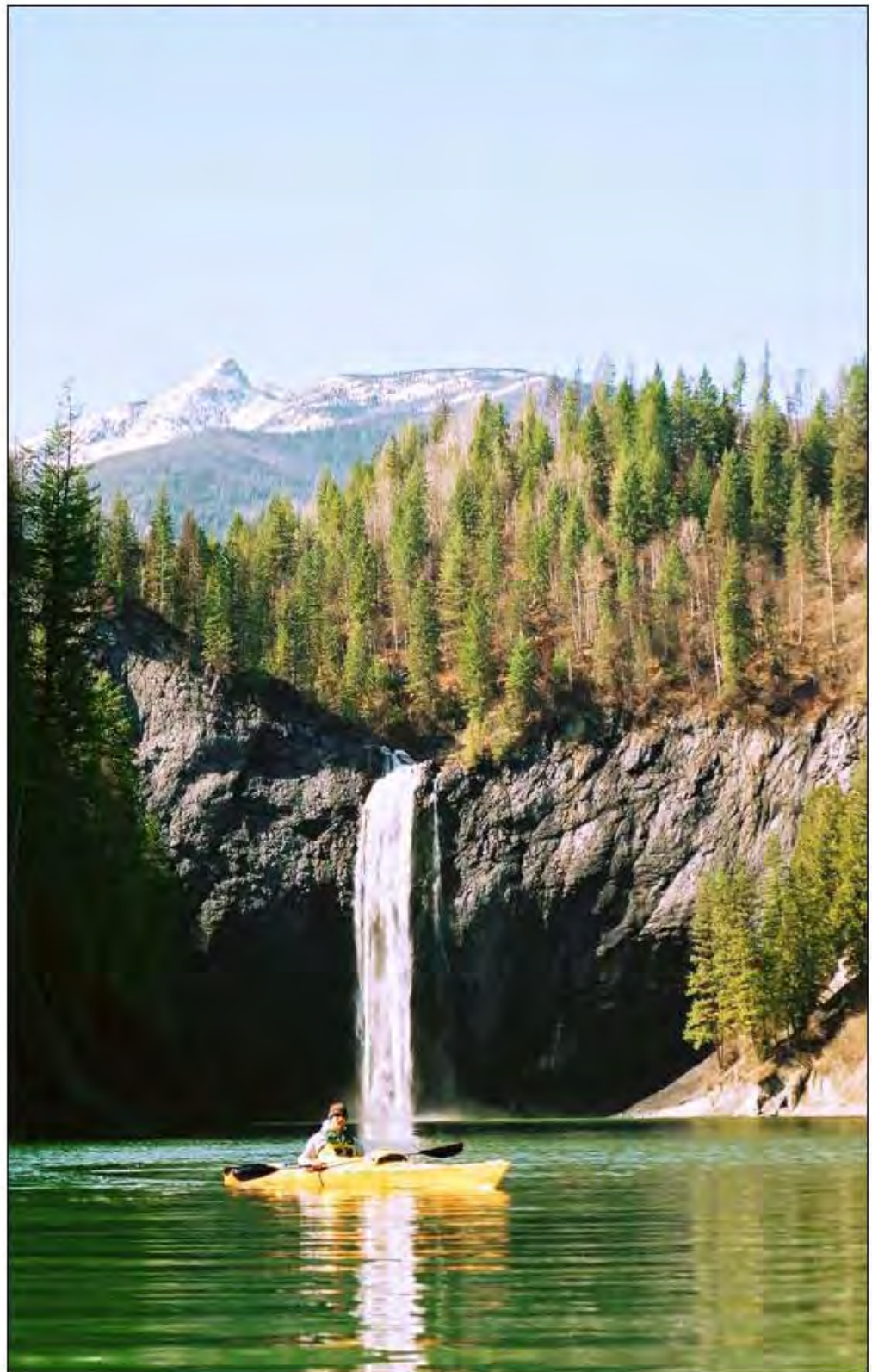
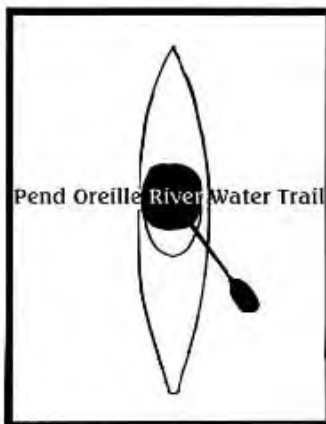


Pend Oreille River Water Trail

Concept

Plan



October 2011

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Planning Trail Coordinators

Pend Oreille County Community Development Department
Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance
Washington State University – Extension Program



Water Trail Committee and Stakeholders

Bureau of Land Management
Chamber of Commerce
City of Newport
Cutter Theatre
Historical Society
Kalispel Tribe
Newport School District
Map Metrics



Seattle City Light
Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club
Town of Ione
Town of Cusick
Town of Metaline
Town of Metaline Falls
United States Forest Service
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Natural Resources



Funding Assistance

Economic Development Council
Kalispel Tribe Natural Resources Department
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Washington Department of Ecology



Planning Assistance

National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

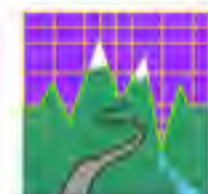


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Foreword, by Glen Nenema, Chairman, Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Like countless communities across America, we are seeing an increase in health problems related to a changed lifestyle. We see these problems first hand in our families, read about them in the newspaper, and hear about it from our health clinic professionals. We understand these problems; the challenge is to do something about it.

Fortunately, we have a strong tradition and culture to show us the way. Our ancestors were always on the move, and in many ways, lived healthier lives because of it. The Kalispel People were the original paddlers of the Pend Oreille River. We traversed these waterways daily for food, recreation, and as a highway. We hunted in these forests and gathered nature's bounty as part of daily life. Even in our more recent history, our working lives in the resource related fields provided us with the exercise we needed to stay healthy. Today, we find ourselves increasingly behind desks, in front of computers, sitting in meetings, talking on the telephone, or traveling to and fro. It is clear that activity needs to be part of our daily lives again.

The Pend Oreille River Water Trail will go a long way in bringing back the tradition of exercise and activity. While the Pend Oreille River Water Trail will promote a more active lifestyle, we feel it will also serve a more subtle, but equally important role in our lives. The Trail will provide access to our shorelines and forests, areas that have always served as places for subsistence, spiritual fulfillment, or simply seeking a quiet moment away from daily life.

The hectic pace of modern life beckons the need for solitude and the connection with nature, even more important than in years past, something we feel a Water Trail will bring to both our Reservation and our broader community.

In addition to improving our physical and mental health, the proposed Water Trail will make our river safer for boaters and paddlers who simply want to spend some time on the river. The interpretive programming will also provide an opportunity for us to share our work, knowledge, and culture with neighbors and visitors to the river alike.

I am encouraged that the Water Trail will get us all into our canoes and kayaks. The benefits will be countless.

See you on the water!



The Kalispel Indian Tribe, shown above, were the original paddlers of the Pend Oreille River in canoes or óyeş in Salish.

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SECTION 1- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a water trail?

A water trail or blueway is a boat route along a stretch of river, shoreline, or lake connected through signs, maps, and access points providing an educational and scenic recreational experience. Water trail facilities include access sites for putting in and taking out boats, parking, signs, maps, and in some cases restrooms, overnight campsites, and rest sites. Water trails connect people to places while enriching and protecting both. They educate users on the environment, history, and culture of the area while emphasizing stewardship and low impact use. Water trails provide paddlers with relaxing outdoor recreation, fresh-air fitness, and family activities.

Water trails are not a new concept. Native Americans were the first to boat rivers using them as transportation routes and fishing grounds. When non-indigenous people came, rivers continued to be travel routes for exploring and trading goods. Over the last century, rivers have been utilized as a corridor for economic development - moving logs for mills, mining, and providing electricity through hydropower development. Today, with a boom in recreation use, water trails are becoming an increasingly popular form of outdoor recreation. Currently, the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) reports nearly 500,000 people participate in hand-powered craft and an additional 725,000 motor boat. According to projections made by the RCO, in Washington State

canoe and kayak use is expected to grow 30 percent by 2020.

Why create a water trail along the Pend Oreille River?

The Pend Oreille River is an amazing resource full of life and history. The water trail begins in Oldtown, Idaho near the Idaho-Washington border and flows 70-miles until Boundary Dam located in the scenic corner of Northeast Washington just one-mile shy of the U.S.-Canadian border. The water trail is designed for paddle craft and small motorized boats providing opportunities for multiple experiences ranging from a couple of hours out on the river to multi-day expeditions.

The Pend Oreille River is home to abundant wildlife and offers natural, historical, cultural, and scenic points of interest including the Kalispel Indian Reservation, home to the Kalispel Tribe the original paddlers of the Pend Oreille River, or *ntóe*, in the Salish language. The water trail provides an opportunity for people to become re-connected to the river and learn the rich historical and natural resource stories of the valley. Today, people boat the river without a clear understanding of which sites are public and which are private. Often people do not know where appropriate facilities exist to dispose of trash and human waste. The creation of a formalized water trail can protect natural resources by dispersing use, identifying appropriate



The Kalispel Indian Tribe, shown above, were the original paddlers of the Pend Oreille River in canoes or óyeš in Salish.

public access points, and encouraging leave-no-trace ethics. The establishment of a unified system of signage, a trail guide, and access points facilitates navigation, use, and safety of recreational users. It also provides another recreational opportunity spurring economic development and improving the quality of life of visitors and residents in the Pend Oreille Valley.

Who developed the plan?

The plan was developed through a cooperative effort of numerous public and private stakeholders and citizens interested in developing the Pend Oreille River Water Trail as an attractive recreational experience, as a vehicle to spur economic activity, and as a means to tell the stories of the Pend Oreille River Valley. The plan was led by the Pend Oreille County (POC) Community Development Department, the Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance (PORTA), the Washington State University Extension Program (WSU-Extension), and the Water Trail Steering Committee, a diverse group of people who care about the river and water trail development. The committee members and other interested stakeholders include the Pend Oreille County Planning Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Kalispel Tribe, United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Seattle City Light (SCL), Pend Oreille County Public Utility District (PUD), Pend Oreille County Parks and Recreation Board, Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board, Map Metrics, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, City of Newport, Town of Lone, Town of Cusick, Towns of Metaline and Metaline Falls, the Historical Society, Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club, local businesses, and interested citizens. Planning assistance was provided by the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS). Funding support was provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Economic Development Council, and Washington State Department of Ecology. All meetings were open to the public and interested citizens contributed their ideas on the water trail. Attendance and participation with the stakeholders reinforced the need for the creation of the Pend Oreille River Water Trail.

What is the purpose of the water trail plan?

The plan was created to guide the development and implementation of the Pend Oreille River Water Trail. The plan provides a conceptual framework for the development of this 70-mile water trail. Pend Oreille County and volunteers conducted a comprehensive inventory which assessed the existing and potential river access points, recorded barriers and portage routes, and identified shoreline attractions and opportunities. Stakeholders analyzed the results of this inventory and developed recommendations for the water trail. The plan presents these recommendations for river access sites, facilities, signage, portages, interpretive displays, trail guides, website development, entrepreneur opportunities, and management strategies. Recommendations in this plan are strictly voluntary and are not binding to the landowners, but are meant to provide input to land managers as to how they can modify and manage their sites to be more water trail-friendly. For many of the recommendations, funds need to be secured through local entities, grants and donations. A list of potential outside funding sources is found in Appendix B. It is envisioned that volunteer power will be a part of the solution in implementing this plan. Some recommendations may also need environmental review and permits.

Who will implement, manage and maintain the water trail?

It is planned that the land owners and managers will continue to be responsible for the sites along the Pend Oreille River Water Trail that they manage. It will be up to these managers to implement the recommendations from this plan for their respective sites. A water trail coordinator will also be selected. This position could be under the Pend Oreille County Parks and Recreation Board, another key partner along the trail, or possibly a partnership position. The coordinator will be the point of contact for all water trail activities and the convener of agencies and entities interested in water trail development. Whenever possible, the water trail coordinator and other committee members will assist the landowners in finding and supporting grants to implement the recommendations. The recommendations are meant as a guide to creating the water trail as funds and opportunities emerge.

Will there be any permits or fees to use the water trail?

Both Washington and Idaho have regulations regarding boating that vary between the states and by watercraft type. Some types of boats need to be registered and require an education class before use. Idaho also requires an invasive species protection sticker for both non-motorized and motorized boats. Please see the Pend Oreille River Water Trail website for links to each state's regulations.

Besides overall state boating registration and permits, there are no fees or permits needed to paddle or boat the Pend Oreille River. However, many of the access sites charge fees for day-use and overnight camping and some private sites require advance reservations. For more information about the amenities and fees at the sites you plan to use, please see the individual site inventory sheets

located in Appendix A or contact the land managers.

How can I help the water trail effort?

All of us as users of the water trail can help by being good stewards of the Pend Oreille River. Implement the "leave-no-trace" principles and minimize your impact by staying on designated water trail sites, packing out your refuse, using biodegradable soaps, avoiding trampling vegetation, providing wildlife space, and leaving sites clean. Volunteers are a valuable resource in helping to take care of the Pend Oreille River Valley. If you are interested in lending a hand or donating funds to the water trail development, contact Mike Lithgow at (509) 447-6457 or mlithgow@pendoreille.org. Visit the water trail [website](http://www.pendoreille.org) for more information.



A Blue Heron flies over the Pend Oreille River. The river is home to abundant wildlife and part of Washington State's Birding Trail, making it a wonderful place for wildlife watching.

SECTION 2 - SCOPE, PURPOSE, AND BACKGROUND

Scope and Purpose of the Plan

The Pend Oreille River Water Trail is a wonderful opportunity for families, beginners, and experienced boaters alike seeking a recreational experience in a wild setting with an opportunity to discover the natural and historic wonders of the river. This working document lays out a conceptual framework for developing the water trail that will connect existing access sites along the Pend Oreille River through uniform signage and comprehensive maps. The plan documents the shared vision, available public water access sites, recommended needs, public support, and next steps. The plan identifies needs for new access sites, restrooms, camping sites, interpretive displays, and portage routes. The plan is meant as a guide to land managers and the larger community in developing and implementing the water trail.

Recommendations are not binding on the landowners. Environmental planning maybe needed to implement some of the actions in this plan. This conceptual plan covers over 70 miles of the Pend Oreille River from the Oldtown Boat Launch in Idaho to the Boundary Dam Launch in Washington.

Water Trail Vision

A mapped and annotated travel route along the Pend Oreille River for recreational boaters which will enhance the culture and economy of our communities, ensure preservation of habitat, and establish destinations for research and education within our river environment

Planning Process

This plan was developed through a collaborative process of private, public, and tribal stakeholders working towards a common vision of developing the water trail as an outstanding recreational experience, educational opportunity, and a means to diversify a sustainable tourism economy. The planning process was led by the Pend Oreille County Community Development, PORTA, and the WSU-Extension. A diverse steering committee was formed to guide the planning process. All steering committee meetings were open to the public. The Pend Oreille County Community Development Department and volunteers developed a detailed

inventory of public access sites along the shoreline. The plan includes recommendations made by the steering committee and advisors and will be implemented voluntarily by the land managers as funding and resources become available. Through the planning process, two river celebrations were held to promote the water trail effort, partnerships, and bring awareness to the river. A community open house was held in the summer 2011 to share the draft plan and solicit input. A survey was also developed to gather input from the community. Support for the water trail is wide spread throughout the community by county commissioners; residents; businesses; local, regional, and federal agencies; land managers; and recreation users.

Funding was received by the Economic Development Council, the Kalispel Tribe Natural Resource Department, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Washington State Department of Ecology. Technical assistance was provided by the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

Character of the Pend Oreille River Valley

The Pend Oreille River Valley is home to abundant wildlife and offers natural, historical, cultural, and scenic points of interest including the Kalispel Indian Reservation, home to the Kalispel Tribe, the original paddlers of the Pend Oreille. In the early



Veteran and future river enthusiasts enjoyed celebrating the river together during the 2010 River Event.

1800s, French-Canadian fur trappers were among the first non-indigenous people to visit the Pend Oreille River Valley. Settlers mined gold, lead, and zinc in the mid to late 1800s, with logging emerging as the area's major industry. Steamboats, railroad, and hydroelectric development played important historical roles in the economic development of the Pend Oreille River Valley.

The Pend Oreille watershed, all the water that feeds into the river, drains almost 26,000 square miles with tributaries extending into Canada, Montana, and Idaho. The Pend Oreille River is 130 miles long originating from Lake Pend Oreille in the Idaho Panhandle flowing northwesterly until it joins the Columbia River in southeastern British Columbia, Canada. To the east of the Pend Oreille River lies the Selkirk Mountain range and to the west lies the Calispel Mountain range. The full drainage basin of the river and its tributaries accounts for 43% of the entire Columbia River Basin. There are five dams on the Pend Oreille River; two of these dams - Box Canyon and Boundary - are part of the 70-mile Pend Oreille River Water Trail. Portions of the water trail appear more like a reservoir/lake than a river due to dam regulation; however this can be deceiving as high water volumes and steep gradients contribute

to significant velocities at times. Daily and seasonal fluctuations occur due to rain, snowmelt, and dam operations. The river is remote and scenic, offering a wild lands visitor experience. The southern fifty-four miles of the water trail are part of the Box Canyon Dam reservoir, owned and operated in a run-of-river hydroelectric operation by Pend Oreille County Public Utility District (PUD). The northern 17.5 miles are part of the Boundary Dam reservoir, owned and operated by Seattle City Light (SCL) in a "load-following" hydroelectric operation, meaning the water elevations change to meet the electricity needs. During the summer, the reservoir elevation is managed to promote and support recreation access, but daily fluctuations still occur for power production. The character of the river changes at Metaline Falls (river mile (RM) 27). Before Boundary Dam was constructed, the falls were a significant rapid and deterrent to early navigation on the river. Today the falls, while much tamer, can still present excitement and challenges for boaters. Water levels can change rapidly throughout the day. Inexperienced boaters may prefer to portage around the falls due to the high velocity, turbulent water. North of the falls, the rapids transition back into flatter water and the river enters a unique scenic canyon with rock cliffs, waterfalls, and caves.



A paddler enjoying a sunny, serene day on the Pend Oreille River.

Benefits of the Trail

The Pend Oreille River Water Trail will be a scenic recreational boating opportunity linking access sites available for public use along the river. For local boaters and visitors, the water trail development will provide cohesive signage, a trail guide, improved access and facilities, natural and cultural resource information, links to land-based trails, and information on community services. Water trail development can help support local businesses, promote tourism, and diversify economic activity of the small communities along the trail. The water trail also offers the community opportunities for outdoor exercise, improving both physical and mental health.

The water trail will connect users to the Pend Oreille River Valley through experiencing the waterway and learning about the history and natural resources. Through recreational experiences and education, a sense of stewardship and leave-no-trace ethics will be fostered.

A formalized water trail directs use to appropriate public access sites and helps protect sensitive environmental resources and private lands. The Pend Oreille River is a navigable river and people boat down the river today without a clear understanding of which properties along the river are public and which are private. Boaters often do not know where to properly dispose of garbage and human waste. One of the goals of the water trail is to clearly delineate public access sites and private property along the Pend Oreille River through the



use of literature, maps, signage, and boundary markers. Trails around the country have also found that bringing in recreational water trail users creates more “eyes” on the river corridor, reducing illegal activity.

Lastly, the collaborative forum and structure of the water trail provides a means for involving all interested agencies, organizations, and individuals in trail planning and implementation to collectively provide a high-quality regional recreational experience and a vehicle for disseminating consistent information about safety, protecting wildlife, and other issues.

Navigability and Trail Use

Since the Pend Oreille River is a navigable river, it is available for public boating and fishing. While people can boat anywhere on the river, access is obtainable only through the designated public access sites and the privately-owned businesses which permit public use. The Pend Oreille River will continue to be open for motorized and non-motorized boating use. Most river access sites are suitable for all boats; however, due to the terrain a few sites are only suitable for hand-powered craft. Swimming, fishing, hiking, and sight-seeing also provide opportunities for people to enjoy the river and its surrounding corridor. The Pend Oreille River is primarily used during the summer season with many river access sites open only during the summer season.



The water trail offers the community opportunities to experience nature while being active outdoors improving both physical and mental health.

SECTION 3 - RIVER INVENTORY, MAPS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

River Access Inventory and Maps

A detailed inventory and assessment of public-owned lands along the river was completed by Pend Oreille County Community Development Department staff from 2008-2010. Several volunteers, including the boy scouts, also helped inventory river access sites. Landowners and managers reviewed the inventory for accuracy at their sites. In addition, private businesses offering services along the river were engaged on their interest in being a part of the water trail. This resulted in a comprehensive look at the public land parcels and private businesses along the river. Detailed river inventories and assessments were also completed through the Box Canyon and Boundary Dam relicensing processes; this information was also analyzed as part of the inventory process.

After inventorying and analyzing over 90 public access sites, 32 sites were selected to be included in the Pend Oreille River Water Trail. A few additional sites were recognized as potential access sites, but need further investigation and/or approval by the land managers. These sites could be added at a later date.

Water Trail sites were selected from the inventoried sites based on the following criteria:

- Is it a developed public access site that already offers amenities such as restrooms, camping, boat ramp, parking, or a point of interest?
- Is it an undeveloped public access site that offers easy access to boaters with minimal

impact to resources?

- Is it a site that may not be immediately available for public use, but is included in tribal, city, or agency plans for future development for public use?
- Does the land manager(s) support it becoming a water trail access site?

In addition, six private businesses support being recognized on the water trail maps. Many of these businesses would require advance reservations. Individual site inventory sheets of the water trail access sites are located in Appendix A.

Types of Sites

There are several types of river access sites that are part of the water trail. Stewardship is a primary goal of the trail. The trail will be designed to avoid sensitive resources and encourage users to follow the leave-no-trace principles.

Vehicle River Access Day-use Sites. These day-use sites serve as 'trail-heads' to the water trail and provide a place to access the water, launch a boat, and park a vehicle. These sites also provide places for people to fish, picnic, or simply enjoy the river view. The sites range from developed city parks to more wilderness water access sites. Many of the existing vehicle river access sites provide restroom facilities and some charge a fee for use. It is envisioned that restroom facilities would be added to other vehicle access sites as use grows to help protect the land. Animal-resistant trash receptacles may also be added at the primary sites.



The Pend Oreille River is enjoyed by motorized and non-motorized boating, fishing, swimming, and relaxing.

Boat-in Only Day-use Sites. These dispersed day-use sites serve as rest-stops along the trail for boaters to stop for a picnic, fish, or watch wildlife. To keep with the rustic and rural nature of the trail, no facilities are envisioned for these sites and leave-no-trace principles are to be followed. Camping is not recommended at these sites. While some of these sites may have limited parking, the committee and land managers have determined it is not currently suitable for general public use.

Developed Campgrounds, Cabins, and Motels.

There are a number of developed campgrounds and a couple of private-run cabins and motels found along the trail that are managed by the agencies and private entities. These sites provide lodging for the night for an array of visitors and offer convenient amenities for water trail users. Most of these sites charge fees and some require advance reservations.

Boat-in Only Campgrounds. Dispersed campgrounds provide an opportunity for boaters to experience overnight stays in remote scenic sites along the river. These sites are pack-it-in/pack-it-out. It is envisioned in the long-term, some of these sites will be improved to provide a fire ring and sanitation facilities. Until facilities are provided, overnight water trail users accessing these sites are encouraged to bring their own portable toilets or other personal waste collection devices.

Access Site Recommendations

Recommendations have been made with the intent of meeting existing and anticipated future needs. The steering committee realizes that trail development takes time and a flexible approach is

needed to meet the opportunities for funding and volunteers. These recommendations are meant to be a guide and are flexible as needs and situations change overtime.

The water trail committee held a workshop with the land managers and interested stakeholders to identify the regional "gaps" for river access sites, amenities (parking, restrooms, camping, etc.), and signage. The following desired distances between amenities based on an average paddle speed of two to four miles per hour, were compared to existing conditions (vehicle access and parking: eight miles, restrooms: four-six miles, camping: ten miles, potable water: 16 miles) and where feasible recommendations were made to fill in these gaps. The river was broken into three planning reaches: south, middle, and north. Recommendations in this plan were developed from this workshop and subsequent discussions and modifications with stakeholders and managers. All improvements would require approval by the land manager. Some recommendations may need to undergo an environmental review and permit process before implementation could begin.

It is recommended that low impact facility design standards be developed to address shoreline setbacks, appropriate restroom facilities, parking lot design, storm water management considerations, and boat launch design. Guiding principles are:

- look regionally when selecting a site to improve
- preserve the riparian corridor connectivity
- protect sensitive wildlife and plants
- restore eroding river banks adjacent to river access sites and use native vegetation when restoring or developing a site



Camping along the Pend Oreille River

- minimize the amount of impervious -surface
- select sustainable materials
- use erosion and sediment control measures such as silt fences, filter strips, and temporary vegetation cover during construction
- develop low maintenance facilities and include a plan for continued maintenance

The following selected resources provide guides on low-impact, sustainable water trail development:

- Iowa State, [Developing Water Trail in Iowa \(Chapters 3 & 4 identify design standards\)](#)
- National Park Service, [Logical, Lasting, Launches](#)
- Friends of the Rappahannock River, [The Rappahannock River Recreational Access Guide: Planning Environmentally Low-Impact Recreational Access on Riparian Lands](#)

South Reach

The 23-mile scenic south reach is the headwaters of the water trail, beginning in Oldtown; it travels through a number of communities – Oldtown, Newport, Usk, and Cusick – offering close-to-home recreation and fitness opportunities. It continues flowing north traveling by the Kalispel Reservation, home to the original paddlers of the Pend Oreille River, until it reaches the Tacoma Creek Wildlife Area.

The south reach map and Table 1 display the proposed public water trail access sites along with recommended site improvements identified to help enhance the water trail.

Table 1 –South Reach Water Trail Access Sites and Recommendations

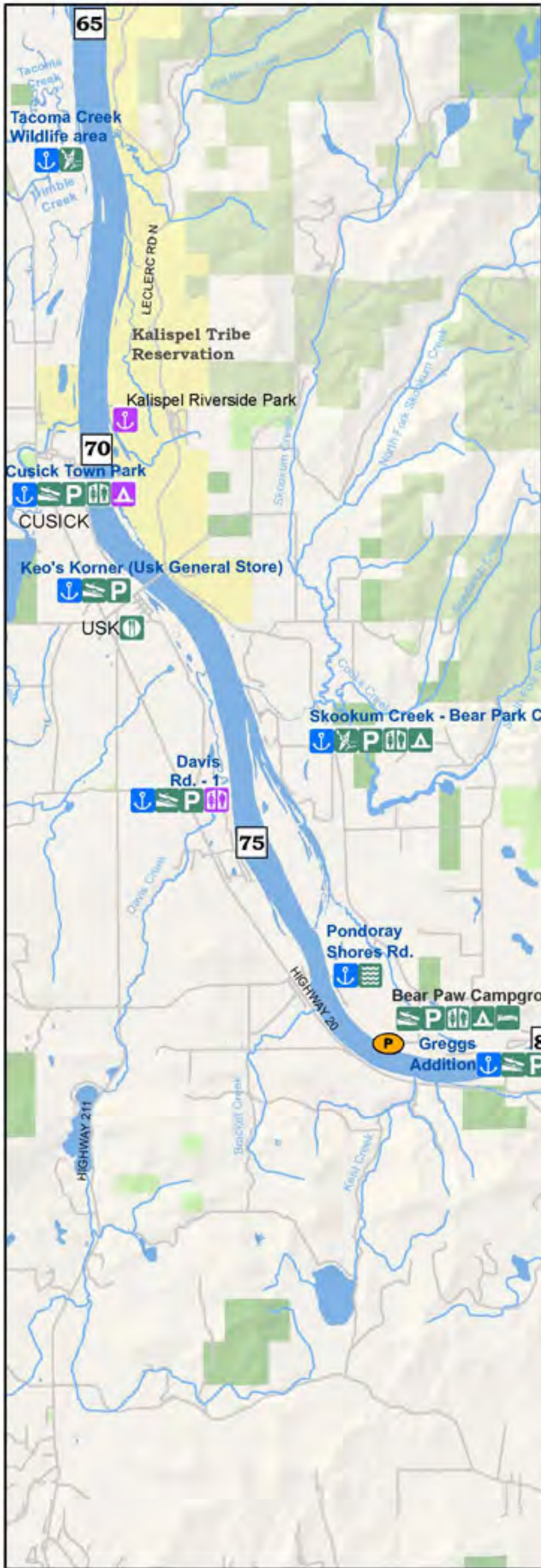
Name	Type of Site	Owner/Manager	River Mile	Site Recommendations
Oldtown Boat Launch	Vehicle Access Day-use	Town of Oldtown	88	This site is the gateway to the trail. Explore opportunities for overnight parking.
Kelly Island	Boat-in Only Day-use	City of Newport	87-88	This island contains old-growth forest and wildlife habitat and it is designated as a wilderness area. It is a good location for pack-it-in/pack-it-out principles. Recommendations include improving and re-opening the existing interpretive trail on the island. Any citing of trails should be developed in consultation with biologists to ensure compatibility with the wildlife habitat on the island. Any future improvements would need to be approved by the Newport City Council.
Ashenfelter Bay Boat Launch	Vehicle Access Day-use	WDFW	87-88	Recommendations at this site include expanding the parking area, developing restroom facilities, adding animal-resistant trash receptacles, managing the trees, and removing invasive species. This site is located in a residential housing area and requires reaching out to landowners to address any potential concerns. Wolf Trail hiking area is within a ½ mile and might provide an opportunity for a future connection.
Pioneer Park	Developed Campground	USFS	86	This campground offers a great place to stop for the day and explore the interpretive trails or spend the night. Explore opportunities for overnight parking for multi-day users. This would likely include a fee.
Sandy Shores	Vehicle Access Day-use	POC	83	This site offers a boat launch and limited parking. Recommendations at this site include developing restroom facilities and improving the parking area.
Char Springs	Boat-in Only Day-use Non-Motorized Boats	POC	81-82	This boat-in only site is envisioned as a place to rest and enjoy a picnic. This site is only appropriate for paddle craft as it is too shallow for motorized boats.

Name	Type of Site	Owner/ Manager	River Mile	Site Recommendations
Gregg's Addition	Vehicle Access Day-use	POC & PUD	79	This site was recently developed and the bank was stabilized using native vegetation. Installation of interpretive signs at this site is recommended.
Pondoray Shores	Boat-in Only Day-use	POC	77	None
Davis Road 1 Boat Launch	Vehicle Access Day-use	POC	74-75	This County access site offers a boat launch and parking. It is also a good place to view birds. Recommendations for this site include adding restroom facilities.
Skookum Creek/Bear Park Campground	Developed Campground	DNR	73	This river-side campground is situated about one-mile up Skookum Creek from the Pend Oreille River. It is recommended that overnight parking opportunities be provided here.
Keo's Corner Store and Boat Launch	Vehicle Access Day-use	PUD	71-72	None
Cusick Town Park and Boat Launch	<i>Existing:</i> Vehicle Access Day-use <i>Future:</i> Potential Campground	Town of Cusick	70	This well-developed park situated in the Town of Cusick offers a wide variety of opportunities including boating, fishing, swimming, an interpretive trail through the wetlands, an excellent bird watching area, a world class skate park, and picnic areas. It is recommended that a place to lock-up boats be developed to allow people to leave their boats and explore the area. Investigating the potential for overnight camping and parking is also recommended.
Tacoma Creek Wildlife Area	Boat-in Only for Non-Motorized Paddle Boats	PUD	66-67	Tacoma Creek makes a wonderful paddle experience down a meandering creek with amazing bird watching opportunities. It is a great day-trip for water trail users and wildlife enthusiasts. This area is a PUD Wildlife Area and it is seasonally restricted to protect nesting birds. Information on seasonal closures would be communicated to users through the guide and website.



The south reach flows through four communities- Old Town, Newport, Usk, and Cusick - and the Kalispel Tribe Reservation providing close-to-home recreation and fitness opportunities for residents and visitors.

Pend Oreille River Water Trail Plan South Reach



20

River Miles



Water Trail Access Sites



Potential/Future Water Access Site



Private Site



Boat Launch



Kayak/Canoe Access Site



Boat-in Access Site



Parking



Proposed Parking Area



Bathrooms



Proposed Sanitation Facility



Camping



Proposed Camping Site



Food/Restaurant



Lodging

Local Government

State Lands

Federal Lands

Private

Tribal



0 0.5 1 2 Miles



WASHINGTON-IDAHO BORDER

HIGHWAY 2

Other recommendations to enhance the south reach of the water trail include:

- Engage the private business owner at Bear Paw Campground on their interest in being a part of the water trail.
- Camping. It is recommended that dispersed and/or developed camping opportunities be pursued between RM 78 and 66. This could include public or private campgrounds. As mentioned above, Cusick Town Park has been identified as one potential place for camping facilities.
- The following sites could potentially be water trail sites, but need further exploration and approval by the land managers.
Kalispel Powwow Riverside Park(RM 69). The use of this boat launch for water trail users would require approval by the Kalispel Tribal Council.
Lake Newport State Park, (RM 82-83). This park is currently owned by Washington State Parks

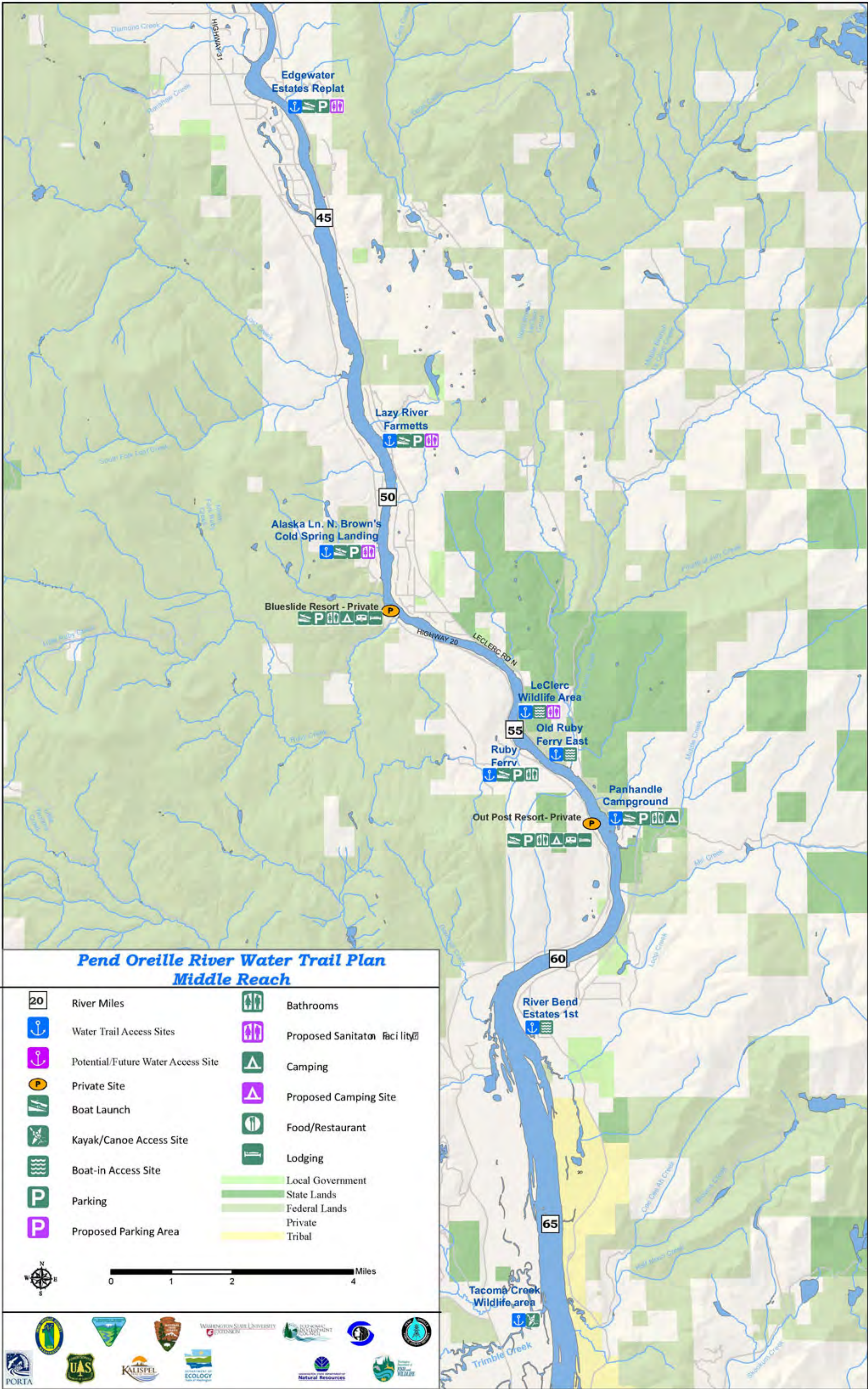
but it is on the list of properties to sell. It is recommended that another public entity acquire this property through a purchase or donation from Washington State Parks. This site would make a wonderful boat-in-only day-use and picnic stop.

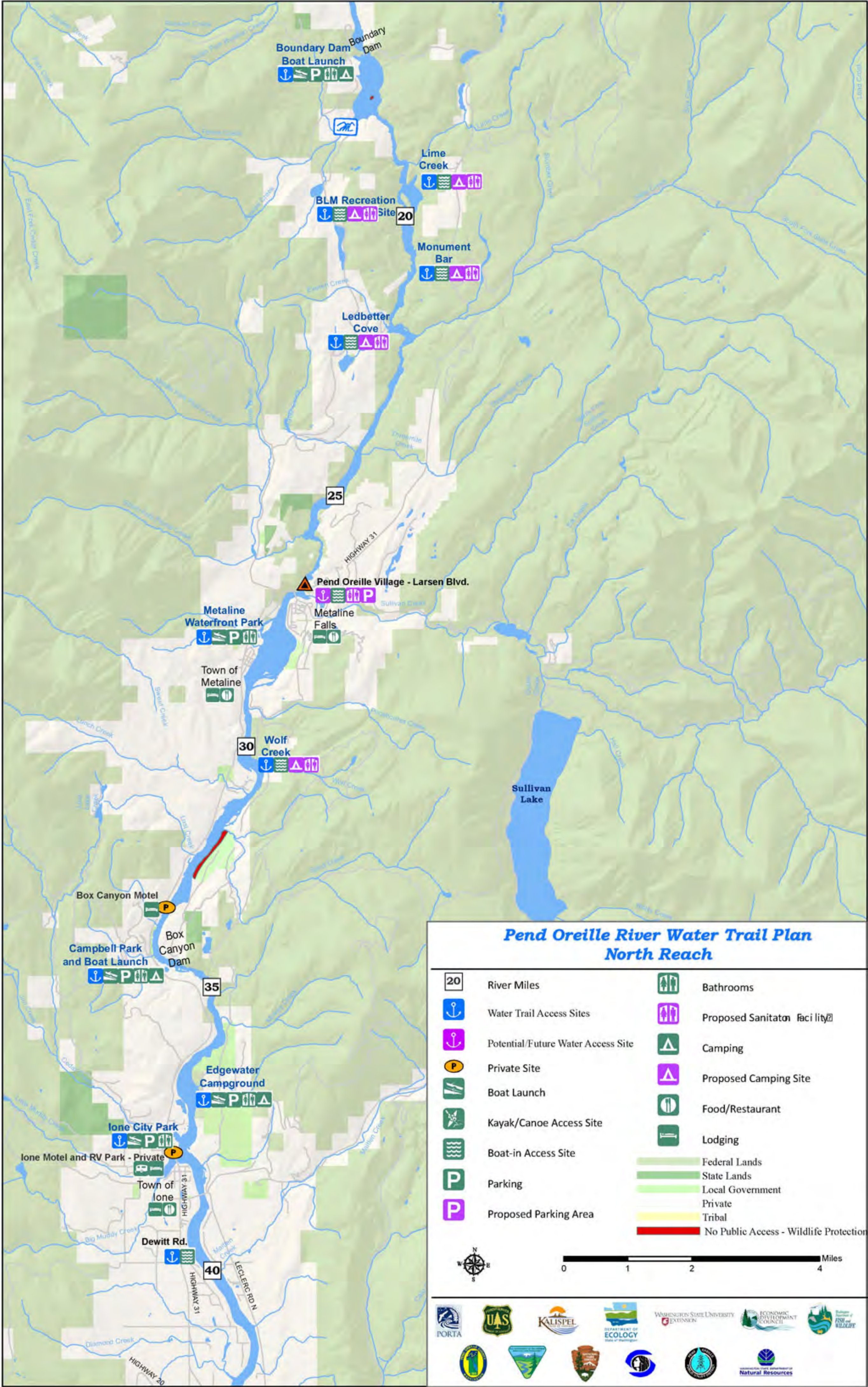
Middle Reach

The 23-mile middle reach flows through rural Pend Oreille County and a wonderful state wildlife area teeming with nesting birds and waterfowl, offering boaters a serene nature experience and a glimpse at what the river was like before it was settled. This reach features several campgrounds, two private businesses, prime estuaries and deltas for fishing, and multiple creeks and sloughs to explore. The Middle Reach Map and Table 2 display the selected water trail access sites and recommendations identified to enhance the water trail experience.

Table 2 Middle Reach Water Trail Sites and Recommendations

Name	Type of Site	Owner/Manager	River Mile	Site Recommendations
River Bend Estates	Boat-in Only Day-use	POC	61-62	None
Panhandle Campground	Developed Campground	USFS	57	This campground offers day-use and overnight opportunities. It is recommended that overnight parking opportunities be explored.
Old Ruby Ferry (West)	Vehicle Access Day-use	WDFW	55-56	None
Old Ruby Ferry (East)	Boat-in Only Day-use	USFS	55-56	None
LeClerc Wildlife Area	Boat-in Only Day-use	WDFW	55	This is a wildlife area and boaters could stop here to go for a walk and view wildlife. It is recommended that sanitation facilities be added. This could include a seasonal porta-potty or a permanent facility.
Alaska Lane Cold Spring Landing	Vehicle Access Day-use	POC	51-52	This site has a boat launch, parking, and property markers. Recommendations include removing invasive species, planting native vegetation, stabilizing the bank through bioengineering methods, and adding sanitation facilities.
Lazy River Farmettes	Vehicle Access Day-use	POC	49	This nice site has a boat launch, parking, a large grassy area, and property site markers. It is recommended that invasive species be removed and restrooms be added.
Edgewater Estates Replat	Boat-in Only Day-use	POC	42-43	This site offers shade trees, an inviting grassy area for picnics, a parking area, property boundary markers, and a boat launch. It is recommended that restroom facilities be developed.





In addition the following recommendations would enhance the middle reach of the water trail.

- Engage private business owners at Blueslide Resort and the Outpost on their interest in being water trail sites. Also explore opportunities for fee-based overnight parking use at their sites.
- As the water trail use grows, longer term goals include pursuing other private or public camping opportunities in this reach and developing a river access site in the gap area between RM 66 and 57.

North Reach

The scenic north reach flows by three small towns (Ione, Metaline, and Metaline Falls), two dams (Box Canyon and Boundary), the Metaline Falls Rapid, amazing wildlife habitat, the striking Pee Wee Waterfall, and the lower 10-mile Canyon Reach featuring impressive rock walls and unique geological elements. This 24-mile reach offers three developed campgrounds, two city parks, a private campground and cabin resort, a hotel, and a number of dispersed recreation sites. There is a mix of landowners and managers including Pend Oreille County, Town of Ione, PUD, Town of Metaline, USFS, BLM, SCL, and local business owners.

The water trail will benefit from the implementation of SCL's Recreation Resource Management Plan, described in Appendix C, with most improvements occurring by 2021. For current

users, as with other sections in the water trail, education around leave-no-trace is crucial to ensuring high quality recreation experiences while limiting impacts on natural and cultural resources. Water trail access sites and recommendations for this reach are identified in the North Reach Map and Table 3.

In addition, the following actions are recommended for the north reach of the water trail.

- Lone RV Park and Motel. Engage the private business owners at Lone RV Park and Motel, Box Canyon Motel, and the RV Park near Metaline Waterfront Park to provide information and explore their interest in being a part of the water trail.
- Long-term Project. Investigate the potential to develop a new public water access site and trail connecting Sweet Creek Falls Park to the water on School District Property (RM 31). This would need to be approved by the School District.
- The Metaline Portage Trail site serves as an important water trail access site. SCL's plans call for securing public access and improving this site. This site will be added to the maps, website, and brochures once public access is ensured.



The north reach of the Pend Oreille River is known for its rock cliffs, waterfalls, and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Table 3 – North Reach Water Trail Access Sites and Recommendations

Name	Type of Site	Owner/ Manager	River Mile	Site Recommendations
Dewitt Road	Boat-in Day-use	POC	39	It is envisioned that this site will serve as a boat-in only site for paddlers to stop for the day. Signing the short ¼ mile walk from this site to a near-by restaurant, the Cabin Grill, is recommended. A place to tie and lock up paddle boats is also envisioned.
Ione City Park	Vehicle Access Day-use	Town of Ione	38	This developed city park offers visitors many wonderful amenities to enjoy for the day. To help facilitate multi-day use, explore opportunities for overnight parking here. It is also recommended that a place to lock-up boats be developed to encourage people to leave their boats and explore the town.
Edgewater Campground	Developed Campground and Day-use	USFS	37	This campground offers day-use and overnight stays for visitors. To help facilitate multi-day use, explore opportunities for overnight parking.
Campbell Park	Developed Campground and Day-use	PUD	34	This site offers a boat launch, campsites, bathroom, and interpretive facilities.
Wolf Creek	<i>Existing:</i> Boat-in Only Day-use <i>Future:</i> Boat-in Only Campground	USFS	30-31	SCL's plans call for improving this site by developing dispersed campsites with amenities such as fire rings and providing a sanitation facility. The improvements are scheduled to occur in 2017 or 2018.
Metaline Waterfront Park	Vehicle Access Day-use Site	Town of Metaline	28	This developed park offers a wonderful place to stop for a picnic, go for a walk, or fish. By approximately 2016, SCL plans to replace the existing boat launch, extend a boat ramp lane and upgrade the road access to the ramp, improve circulation and parking, provide ADA-accessible facilities, including an ADA restroom. Explore opportunities for water trail users to park overnight and develop a place for people to lock-up their paddle boats while they explore the town. This would require approval by the Metaline Town Council.
Ledbetter Cove	<i>Existing:</i> Boat-in Only Day-use <i>Future:</i> Boat-in Only Campground	BLM	22	SCL's plans call for improving this site by developing dispersed campsites with amenities such as fire rings and providing a sanitation facility. The improvements are scheduled to occur in 2017 or 2018.
Monument Bar	<i>Existing:</i> Boat-in Only Day-use <i>Future:</i> Boat-in Only Campground	USFS	21	SCL's plans call for improving this site by developing dispersed campsites with amenities such as fire rings and providing a sanitation facility. The improvements are scheduled to occur in 2017 or 2018.
BLM Boundary Recreation	<i>Existing:</i> Boat-in Only Day-use <i>Future:</i> Boat-in Only Campground	BLM	19-20	SCL's plans call for improving this site by developing dispersed campsites with amenities such as fire rings and providing a sanitation facility. The improvements are scheduled to occur in 2017 or 2018.

Name	Type of Site	Owner/ Manager	River Mile	Site Recommendations
Lime Creek	<i>Existing:</i> Boat-in Only Day-use <i>Future:</i> Boat-in Only Campground	USFS	19- 20	SCL's plans call for improving this site by developing dispersed campsites with amenities such as fire rings and providing a sanitation facility. The improvements are scheduled to occur in 2017 or 2018.
Boundary Dam Forebay Recreation Area	Developed Campground and Day-use	SCL	17	This developed site is located immediately above Boundary Dam and provides day use opportunities, overnight camping, and a boat launch. By approximately 2016, SCL plans to make the following improvements to the site: increase the number of RV and tent campsites; provide interpretation and education signage; extend an existing boat ramp lane and improve parking and circulation at the boat launch; and, provide ADA-accessible facilities.



The scenic "canyon reach" on the Boundary Reservoir is a draw for boaters.

Trail-Wide Recommendations and Considerations

Uniform Signage

A main amenity of the trail will be the establishment of common signage along the trail. The goal of the signage program is to create a system of consistent signage that is both easy to use and requires low maintenance.

It is recommended that the following signs be installed along the water trail.

Water Trail Logo. The Pend Oreille River Water Trail logo will be attached to the existing and future signage to denote which sites are included in the trail system.

Flexible Fiber Glass Posts. Parcels that do not have existing sign posts to attach the water trail logo will have a flexible fiber glass post installed. The signs should be posted so they are visible from the water. These posts are about six feet tall and less than six inches wide and are easy to install, relatively inexpensive to replace after flooding, and resilient to damage. The post will have the following stickers placed on it:

- Water Trail Logo
- Land manager/owner of the site & FERC number
- River mile of site
- A site type symbol (i.e. camping, day-use only)

Boundary Markers. Some property boundaries will need to be denoted to avoid accidental trespass. These would likely be standard flexible fiber glass posts or similar.

Interpretive Information. Certain sites with interesting natural or cultural stories are excellent places for interpretive signs or markers. To keep with the rural nature, these signs will only be placed at main river access sites. When possible, interpretive signs should be aesthetically pleasing and include artistic materials and design.

River Access Site Bulletin Boards. Just as land-based trails have a need for trailhead information, the water trail will benefit from having maps, river etiquette, leave-no-trace principles, and other

important information posted near the major river access put-ins. Multi-language signs in Salish, Spanish, and English could be considered at the main river access sites. When possible, signs at these locations should be aesthetically pleasing and include artistic materials and designs.

Other Navigation Signs. Other signs may be needed to facilitate navigation at key points (i.e. portage sites, hazards, bridges).

Road Signage. Signs on the roadways are also needed at some locations to help users navigate to the river access sites.

Portages and Future Trail Connections

Box Canyon Dam

Box Canyon Dam requires a portage. Currently there are no upstream public access take-out points within two miles of the dam. There is a put-in spot at the Campbell Park boat launch immediately downstream from the dam. The nearest upstream take-out point on the west side of the river is at the Lone City Park (RM 38) which is approximately three miles south of the Box Canyon boat launch. On the east side of the river, Edgewater Campground (RM 37) is two miles south of the dam and has a public access, but there are no downstream access points for put-in on the east bank with vehicle access. The topography, landownership, and safety net near the dam require that boaters drive or shuttle between access points around the dam.

Metalline Falls

The rapids and eddies immediately north of the Metalline Falls Bridge constitute a safety hazard, for some boaters, especially at low water levels when both a whirlpool and a wall of water form between large rocks. Power generation at the dam and releases from upstream hydro projects cause the water level of the reservoir to fluctuate daily. It is recommended that boaters view the eddies from the bridge to check conditions before paddling this stretch. As an alternative, a very rough portage trail on the east bank shows evidence of public use. It starts from the north bank at the mouth of Sullivan Creek, traverses the hillside and returns to the river via roads and an eroded trail near the old powerhouse structure. SCL's plans have recommended securing public access and improving

this portage. Until the portage is available for public use, boaters who want to paddle the Canyon Reach and avoid the rapids can put in at Boundary Dam.

Boundary Dam

Currently the water trail ends at the Boundary Dam Forebay Recreation area. A portage is not currently available. SCL's plans state they will "...assess and also periodically re-assess public access and security policies at the Tailrace Recreation Area/Machine Hall Visitors' Gallery. These assessments will include a review of safety and security related to a potential portage opportunity around Boundary Dam (to help facilitate a regional water trail). If feasible, the portage opportunity would provide a connection between Boundary Reservoir (at the Forebay Recreation Area) and the Pend Oreille River below Boundary Dam (at the Tailrace Recreation Area)."

If a portage option is available, this will facilitate connection of the Pend Oreille Water Trail with Canada and the Greater Columbia River Water Trail. While a walking portage option is not currently available, through travelers can still drive or shuttle from the Boundary Dam Boat Launch to access sites in Canada. In addition to portaging around the dam, boaters would also need to address border crossing requirements. U.S. and Canadian travelers are required to present a passport. Users should contact the appropriate Canadian and U.S. Border Patrol Offices to understand procedures and show appropriate documentation.



Boundary Dam

LeClerc Road Culvert at Skookum Creek

Currently water trail users can take a side trip up Skookum Creek to reach the Skookum Creek-Bear Park Campground. This trip is not possible during high water when the culvert underneath LeClerc Road becomes impassible. To address this problem, it is recommended that the feasibility of a portage

trail be investigated around this culvert in the gravel portion of the LeClerc roadway right-of-way.

Water Trail Website

The steering committee recommends primarily using the Pend Oreille River Water Trail website as the best method to reach the most river recreationists and visitors. Websites are inexpensive and can be updated easily with changes and new information as it becomes available. Any downloadable maps or brochures will be formatted to be compatible with printing on home computers. A basic website has already been developed and is currently being hosted by the PORTA. It includes the following information:

- description of the water trail and main attractions
- map of the 70-mile stretch and a series of maps that show a close-up view of three to four river miles with the river access sites and amenities (boat launch, restrooms, parking, camping)
- paddling safety, Homeland Security, and boating regulation information
- stewardship information, a brief description of Leave-no-trace, and links to the Leave-no-trace website
- links to stories about the Pend Oreille River Valley (through Diggings)
- contact information for water trail planners

It is recommended that the water trail website be moved to a permanent home hosted by Pend Oreille County and that it be further developed to include:

Short-Term Goals

- Information on the vision of the water trail planning project, partners, and the timeline
- Water trail logo and water trail partners' logos
- Personal safety, responsibility, and river etiquette information (see Section 4 - Interpretation Section).
- Augment the downloadable maps with the leave-no-trace principles.
- Create a downloadable brochure on procedures to prevent the spread of invasive species including pictures and information about species of concern (purple loosestrife, Eurasian water milfoil, quagga mussels, zebra mussels).

- Promote economic activity through advertising on the map businesses and lodges that provide water access. Since PORTA updates and lists all the businesses, include a link to PORTA on the map and also put symbols showing food/lodging in all applicable towns (but only list individual businesses that provide water access).
- Rat Island, the shoreline of the Boundary Reach Wildlife Area, and other areas that maybe identified should be marked as areas for users to stay away from to protect wildlife and prevent resource damage.
- River inventory sheets with site descriptions and site manager contact information
- To promote the water trail, coordinate with all the water trail partners to provide a link to the water trail website on their websites.

Mid-Term Goals

- Downloadable Interpretive Brochure Series on stories of the valley and leave-no-trace principles (see Interpretive Section).
- Suggested one-hour, half-day, full day and multiple day trips. Some trips that could be considered include the Canyon Reach, Tacoma/Trimble Creek, Tiger Slough, and Sullivan Lake/Creek. Include the time it takes to paddle between distances on the trail to facilitate trip planning.
- Ensure the website is compatible with smart-phones.

Long-Term Goals

- An interactive map, Google-map or similar product, with trip planning features allowing individuals to customize their river trip.
- Include a way for trail user feedback and interaction on trip reports, access sites, etc.

Water Trail Map/Guide – Downloadable, Printed, and Smart-Phone Application

As mentioned above, the website contains a downloadable trail guide consisting of a map series and a one-page brochure. In the short-term the map/guide will be updated to include the recommended water trail access sites and

businesses as well as areas that are off-limits to recreationists. Another goal is to create a printed water trail guide on water proof paper that describes the Pend Oreille River, access sites, attractions and points of interest, businesses, stories of the river valley, river etiquette and safety, and leave-no-trace principles. The Willamette River Guide was identified as a model for a future printed Pend Oreille Water Trail Guide. A longer-term goal is to create a smart phone application interactive map and guide. This could be similar to the "Paddle Beaver Creek" Application done by Oregon Parks and Recreation. Cell phone availability is limited past Metaline Falls, so this would need to be a factor in developing a smart phone application. Both the printed guide and smart-phone application could be sold to provide some funding for future reprints of the guide and for seed funding for grants for trail implementation and maintenance.



Pee Wee Falls thunders loudly as water drops 200 feet from the high rock cliff to the Pend Oreille River. Water trail visitors have the opportunity to experience this unique, natural feature.

SECTION 4 -INTERPRETATION AND LEAVE-NO-TRACE PROGRAMS: SENSE OF PLACE, SAFETY, STEWARDSHIP

Interpretation and Leave-No-Trace programs are designed to provide informative and educational material to people on a variety of topics directly related to the area and also help foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship. Interesting resource information can be augmented with leave-no-trace principles leading to greater appreciation by visitors of the area and what they can do to protect it. This information can be presented utilizing a variety of media such as signs and displays, brochures and water trail guides, guided tours, web sites, smart-phone guides, and community education classes.

Interpretive Themes

There are literally hundreds of topics that could be interpreted relevant to the Pend Oreille River Valley. The steering committee selected the following primary themes to focus the interpretation and education program for the Pend Oreille Water Trail.

Natural and Geological Resources

Fish and Wildlife. The river provides life for many fish and wildlife species and the water trail provides a wonderful opportunity to educate people about the animals that inhabit the Pend Oreille River Valley. There are many nesting birds, raptors and waterfowl who call the Pend Oreille River home.



Tundra swans take flight over the river. The Pend Oreille River is the flyway for many migrating flocks of birds.

Many people enjoy learning about fish, wildlife, and habitats that can be observed while on a trail. Interpretation could focus on learning about different species as well as ways to protect them through staying in designated water trail sites, respecting seasonal closures, and giving the wildlife needed space. Salmonid recovery efforts are underway to restore Bull Trout, a federally-listed species that once used the Pend Oreille River as a corridor to reach spawning habitat in tributaries. The water trail provides an opportunity to explain and build support for upcoming projects such as establishing fish passage around dams.

Invasive Species. Invasive species are non-native plants or animals that aggressively compete with native species. Invasive species are one of the largest threats to biodiversity and ecosystem health. As per the Integrated Aquatic Weed Management Plan developed by the Pend Oreille County Aquatic Weed Management Area, invasive species of special concern include purple loosestrife, flowering rush, yellow flag Iris, Eurasian water milfoil, and quagga and zebra mussels. As visitors and stewards of the river, recreationists can play an important role in helping reduce the spread of invasive non-native species by cleaning gear and leaving plants and animals in their natural setting. Interpretive materials with pictures of recreationists actively checking and cleaning their gear have been found effective to educate users on what they can



Purple loosestrife, on the left, is one of the invasive species of concern in the valley.

do to protect the environment. Boaters could also help agencies with early detection of invasive species through encouraging them to contact the weed control board if certain species are found.

Geology. The Pend Oreille River Valley is surrounded by the Kettle and Selkirk mountain ranges. The river valley contains unique geological features, most notably the 'canyon reach' of the Boundary Reservoir, where the river has carved a box-like canyon with steep rock walls. Remnants of the ice age history and Glacial Lake Missoula flooding are also found in the valley. The geological features and glacial history of the valley could be interpreted to water trail users to enhance their knowledge and appreciation of the area.

Shoreline vegetation and erosion. Riverbank stability is an issue for many shoreline homeowners. The water trail offers a chance to educate boaters about the damage boat wakes can cause to eroding shorelines. As well, interpretive materials can promote effective, environmentally sensitive stabilization techniques at a variety of demonstration sites, including the Greggs boat launch.

Wetlands. Many of the wetland areas originally associated with the Pend Oreille River have been lost through diking, drainage, or change in hydrologic regime. Remaining wetland areas and wetland restoration projects such as Tacoma-Trimble area, Everett Island and Cusick Park in the Box Canyon Reservoir offer opportunities for education on the value of wetlands to wildlife and water quality.

Human Use, Development, and Culture

Native American Use of the River. The Kalispel Tribe were the original paddlers of the Pend Oreille River and were known by other tribes as "river/lake paddlers". Today, the Tribe is active in protecting the river and its natural and cultural resources. The water trail offers a wonderful opportunity to work in partnership with the Kalispel Tribe to share their story and culture. The Pioneer Campground already offers a great interpretive trail about the Kalispel Tribe and their traditional camas ovens.

Explorers. David Thompson and other early explorers provided the first written accounts of the area, including descriptions of many river features.

Travel Corridor. From paddleboats supplying miners and early logging railroads running along the shores, to the current Scenic By-way, the river and its valley have a long history as the main transportation route through the County. Interpretive materials at the Ruby Ferry landing and other appropriate historical sites could highlight this role.

Miners and loggers and homesteaders. Settlement days provide colorful material such as accounts of logging camps with aerial cables to move logs across the river, mining stories, early "stump" ranches, and once-thriving riverside communities such as Ruby and Furport.

Hydropower Development. The two hydropower producing dams along the Pend Oreille Water Trail, Box Canyon and Boundary, were built in 1956 and 1967 respectively. Both of these dams offer tours and visitor centers to learn more about their creation and hydropower benefits. In addition, Albeni Falls Dam just east of Newport into Idaho provides an interpretive center and link to a future water trail system upriver.

Safety and Etiquette

Personal Safety. Information on personal safety and being prepared such as wearing a life jacket, bringing a recommended gear list, knowing your skill level, traveling with someone, and leaving a route plan.

Emergency Information. Contact information and cell tower ranges.

Hazards. Flow fluctuations, cold weather, dams, and river hazards

Sharing the River and Trail Etiquette. Respecting private lands, leave-no-trace, respect wildlife, respect other trail users, and leave what you find.

Illegal Activities and Who to Contact. This could include the Sheriff's office and the USFS also has a toll-line for visitors to contact.

Art along the Trail.

Art is a great way of expressing any one of the themes and could take the form of a physical installation, downloadable document, or podcast. Physical installations would be appropriate at developed access sites. The following ideas emerged during the planning process and are provided as examples of potential art concepts.

- in partnership with the Newport School District's shop class develop metal sculptures of salmon or other natural resources
- create sculpture gardens
- create a virtual poetry trail with downloadable poems about the area linked through Global Positioning System (GPS) sites along the trail
- where appropriate, install displays of rotating school projects about the river or trail

Methods and Media

There are many ways to share interpretive information with the community. As mentioned above, this could include signs and displays, brochures and water trail guides, guided tours, web sites, pod-casts, smart-phone guides, community education classes, and K-12 curriculum guides. Over time and as resources and funding become available all of these methods could be used to enhance appreciation of the Pend Oreille River Valley. To keep with the rural and rustic feel of the trail and to keep maintenance low, physical installations such as signs or art will be generally limited to developed river access sites.

The following media have been identified as priority goals for interpretation and education:

- Develop a topic-based downloadable brochure series.



The community learns about the river's wonderful natural resources during a river celebration event.

- Include links and information on the website.
- Develop a detailed water trail guide on water proof paper with interpretive stories and educational information in it.
- Develop a smart-phone application for the water trail guide and interpretive information.
- Develop podcasts sharing different stories of the valley.

Leave-No-Trace and Stewardship

Stewardship and Leave-No-Trace (LNT) Principles are core values of the water trail and vital to its success. Stewardship is embedded in many of the interpretive themes listed above and LNT principles will augment informational material on natural, historic, and cultural resources to help educate users and create a sense of place.

Key Concerns that the program needs to address:

- Concern about trash and long-term occupancy at some sites
- Concern with limited sanitation facilities and disposing of human waste properly
- Concern if use increases – will impacts increase?
- Concern about wildlife and need for people to stay away from some areas
- Concern about aquatic invasive species and how to prevent their spread
- Concern about how to present the LNT information on websites and brochures to maximize opportunities for users to read it
- Potential conflicts between motor boaters, locals, and paddlers

The Seven Leave-No-Trace Principles:

- Plan Ahead and Be Prepared
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Others

Program Parameters:

- The LNT program is a very important component of the water trail.
- Program levels and size will depend on available funding and resources.
- On-the-ground person most effective (i.e. River Ranger). For the Boundary Reach, SCL will be

providing a seasonal river ranger whose duties would include education.

- USFS has some limited funding to help with the LNT program. Staff can provide some advice, limited materials for local education purposes, and a short education class at a couple events.

Program Goals:

Short-Term Goals:

- Include LNT principles on the website. Basic LNT principles for paddlers have already been established. Review this information and modify it, as desired, for the Pend Oreille River Water Trail. Two potential areas for modification include adding information about protecting wildlife areas and nesting birds and reducing the spread of invasive species.
- Provide information or possibly a few short classes at county fairs, river celebrations, community centers, and the Cutter Theatre. A key component needs to be effectively educating local people and the motorboat user group. The WSU- Extension program in partnership with the Kalispel Tribe offers wonderful community classes with educational information about natural resources augmented with information on stewardship

(www.diggings.com). A similar approach could be offered in these classes.

- Augment the downloadable interpretive brochure series and possibly the downloadable water trail maps with LNT information.
- Prominently include LNT principles in the printed water trail guide

Long-Term Goals:

- River Ranger. SCL is funding a part-time river ranger position for the Boundary Reach. The purpose of this position is to help monitor site and resource conditions at the dispersed recreation sites and educate visitors about appropriate behaviors and recreational practices; this could also include education of leave-no-trace principles. A long-term goal is to create a similar program for the Box Canyon Reach. This might include pooling resources from multiple entities that are already monitoring the river or have an interest in doing so. It might also involve creating a volunteer-based patrol system or adopt-a-site program.
- Provide more expansive education classes.
- Develop signs at key river access sites. Consider creating signs in Salish, Spanish, and English at key locations.



Volunteers lend a hand to monitor Indian Creek. Building stewardship of the Pend Oreille River is one of the goals of the water trail.

SECTION 5: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Water Trails provide significant economic benefit to their local rural communities. Development of a Water Trail can help local communities

- diversify economically,
- improve the local quality of life, and
- increase profits to already existing businesses while potentially creating new markets.

For example some business development opportunities for Pend Oreille County exist in these areas:

- Outfitters
- Guides
- Anglers
- Retail Restaurants
- Catering to paddlers – to the campsite, boxed lunch/dinners
- Lodging (B & B, Camping, “Glamping”)
- Transportation to/from point of origin
- Equipment sales/rentals

Water trails have many benefits for relatively little investment. Longer trails like the Pend Oreille River can lead to more economic return by encouraging paddlers to extend their stay, thus increasing their spending in the local area. Including multiple recreation activities could help draw and retain visitors.

Revenue generation is possible from festivals, cultural resources, hand-made crafts, music, entertainment and events. Paddling and paddle trails should be connected to local communities so that visitors can explore and enjoy the many other assets available around the Water Trail.

It would be beneficial for the Pend Oreille River Water Trail to collaborate with organizations and paddle clubs, state- and nation-wide, to disseminate information, and attract paddlers to the region. Potential partners could include the Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club, the Washington State Water Trail Association, the American Canoe Association, and American Rivers. In addition, it could be advantageous to market the water trail through feature articles in recreational and tourism publications such as Sunset Magazine, Seattle

Times, Seattle Metropolitan Magazine, Alaska Airlines, The Inlander, Outdoor Magazine, the New York Times, etc.

It is recommended that the Water Trail Committee partner with Albeni Falls Dam, Bonner County, and Avista to create and promote a longer regional water trail system along the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille River Watershed.

It would benefit the Water Trail to examine the “gaps” in the activities attracting and retaining paddlers, as the Water Trail Committee has done with the Inventory access points along the Trail. Creating a “roadmap” of activities would provide a plan for working toward the hoped-for increases in additional Water Trail access points.

A kayak rental and shuttle business venture, operated by local high school students, recently opened at the Old Town boat launch. Future economic opportunities include expanding rental and shuttle services to other areas of the river.

While there is no standard for determining the distances between events and activities as there is for distances between potable water and restroom facilities, it would be helpful to establish several “Trip Meters” set for one, two and three days and factor in the locations where paddlers would be able to find events and activities. For example, create a B & B to B & B trip, with a “Girl’s Weekend” spin from inn to inn, complete with special food, activities, and accommodations.

One potential way to encourage entrepreneurial development is to offer a series of business development workshops with inspirational speakers and panelists sharing information on how to start or expand businesses catering to water-trail users and tourism. The WSU-Extension Program and other partners would be well suited to offer such classes.

There is potential to promote the Pend Oreille River Water Trail as a destination water trail, in addition to its present existing use by local and near-regional users for day trips. A destination paddler on a

multiple day water trail trip will spend between \$30 - \$80 in a community (see chart below).

Study	Area	Day Trip	Overnight Trip
Pollack (2007)	NFCT	Local \$5/day	Non-Local \$414-498 per trip or \$46/day
Beedle (2008)	NC Paddle Tourism	Local (w/in 50mi) \$143.60 per party	Non-local \$503.62 per party
Johnson (2002)	Lake Superior Water Trail	Typical \$34/day	Paddlers who stayed in a resort \$63/day
Stynes & Sun (2003)	Grand Canyon		\$224 per trip in local communities
Moore and Sidereles (2003)	Chattooga	42% local paddlers	58% paddlers non local Average paddler spent \$255 per trip

Another older study appropriate for our forested region indicates a four-fold increase in spending with an additional four hours of activity.

Net Willingness to Pay for Forest-Based Recreation

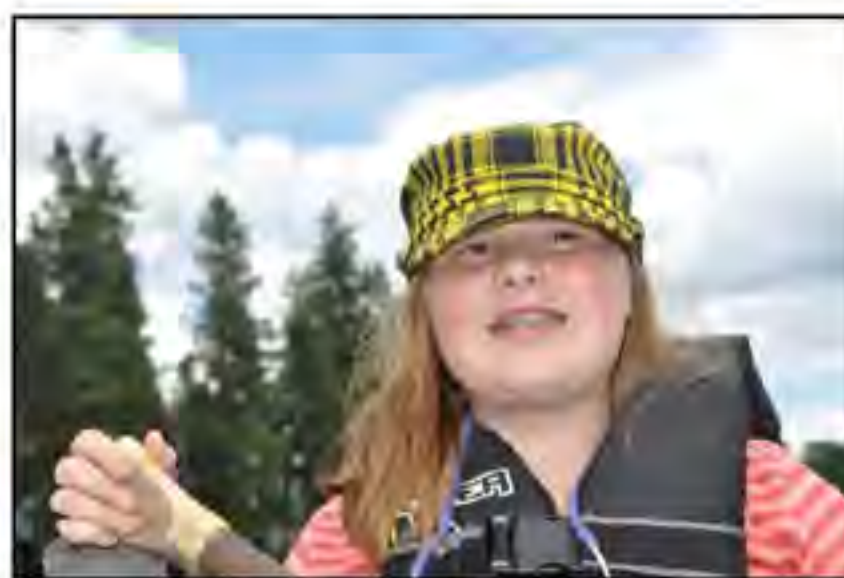
1990 U.S. Forest Service

Activity	Activity Day <8 hours	12-Hour Activity Day
Camping	\$13.33	\$14.56
Non-motorized Boating	\$5.56	\$20.11
Wilderness	\$28.99	\$32.75

The American Whitewater Association has a “What’s a River Worth?” survey available here. It is a good methodology for valuing the cost/benefit/expenditure of the Water Trail.

Additional resources are listed below.

- Case Studies of Water Trail Impacts on Rural Communities
- 2008 Paddle Tourism Study: North Carolina State Trails Program
- Economic Benefits of Water Trails: - Georgia River Network
- Discover Ohio’s Water Trails-A Stream of Benefits
- The Economic Impacts of River Recreation
- The Northern Forest Canoe Trail: Economic Impacts and Implications for Sustainable Community Development



The Pend Oreille River Water Trail can help diversify economic activity of the small communities in the valley by providing a premier recreational and nature experience for people of all ages.

SECTION 6 - COORDINATION, MAINTENANCE, AND IMPLEMENTATION

Maintenance costs for the water trail are anticipated to be relatively low. Since there is no tread to maintain in a paddling route, the majority of the annual maintenance costs are projected to be upkeep of signs, website, and map/guide as well as clean-up and maintenance of water trail-related access points and amenities. In addition, most of the key sites along the water trail are already receiving active management and maintenance and the water trail will be one amenity added to the particular site. The sites that are not being actively managed such as undeveloped islands and County dispersed sites may require the majority of management and maintenance issues for the water trail.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of Public Land Managers

Individual sites along the trail route are managed by a range of entities that either own or have some jurisdiction over the site. This diverse group includes the USFS, BLM, WDFW, DNR, Pend Oreille County, PUD, SCL, City of Newport, Cusick, Lone, Metaline, and Metaline Falls. There are also a number of private businesses that operate along the trail. It is assumed that whenever possible, the public land management agencies responsible for given sites will be the ones who will ultimately be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their particular parcels as they relate to the water trail. However where gaps exist, volunteers and grant funds will be used to address those maintenance issues.

Coordination of the Water Trail

Coordination of the Water Trail is an important role and vital to the success of implementing the water trail. It is envisioned that the Pend Oreille County Parks and Recreation Board or other key partner along the trail would take the lead role as the water trail coordinating body. Pend Oreille County Community Development and the WSU - Extension Program may also provide coordination assistance. It is possible that a partnership position may be created. It is important to have one person be the lead coordinator for the trail. The water trail

coordinator and water trail committee may also want to look for additional staff support through student internships or AmeriCorps volunteers. The primary water trail coordinator role is described below.

- Serves as a point of contact for water trail activities
- Engages the water trail committee partners and businesses along the trail, keeping them apprised of activities and opportunities for partnership projects
- Organizes, convenes, and conducts meetings with guidance from the trail committee
- Facilitates development of an annual water trail work plan and year-end progress report
- Seeks and organizes technical assistance and financial grant applications
- Facilitates coordination between entities conducting river patrols and monitoring
- Organizes and coordinates volunteers
- Provides an organizational link to government agencies, non-profit organizations, and the public
- Helps coordinate public outreach and events with PORTA and the communities
- Coordinates with SCL and PUD on their activities and updates to their plans

Water Trail Committee's Role

Once the water trail plan is completed, it is envisioned that the water trail committee will continue to meet to develop a shared annual work plan and address any continuing issues or opportunities that arise. The role of committee members is described below.

- Participates in regularly scheduled Water Trail Committee meetings
- Represents the views and expertise of community groups, businesses, local government, and other groups with interest in the Pend Oreille River Water Trail Committee
- Provides support, expertise, direction, and work on annual work plans, products, outreach, events and other necessary elements of developing, managing, promoting, and maintaining the water trail

Volunteer Labor

Many water trails are maintained and celebrated through the work of dedicated volunteers and organizations. Existing organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, would be well suited to do volunteer service projects on the Pend Oreille River. The neighboring residential areas may also be interested in adopting a site in their neighborhood. Volunteer efforts can support the water trail by adopting a site, providing labor for special project events, conducting volunteer river patrols, tracking usage of the trail, developing interpretive stories for the trail guide and website, and organizing river cleanup campaigns and/or community river celebrations. Coordination of the various volunteer activities will be essential to the water trail. Volunteer groups and individuals will need to have one person whom they can contact if they have questions, need assistance, or want to report an issue. To use volunteer assistance most effectively, a volunteer program should be established. Components of a successful volunteer program include (1) a volunteer coordinator, (2) task identification, (3) training and recruitment, and (4) rewards and recognition.

It is recommended that Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs) be developed and signed between on-going volunteering entities and the Water Trail Coordinating Body. MOUs are not legally binding but clearly spell out the roles and responsibilities of all parties. See Appendix C for an example of an MOU for water trail maintenance.



A volunteer plants willow and dogwood cuttings to protect the bank at the Gregg's Addition water trail site.

Monitoring and River Patrols

The Pend Oreille Water Trail Steering Committee recognizes that there will be a need for an on-the-ground presence for educating users and monitoring use and impacts related to the trail. For the Boundary Reach, SCL is developing a monitoring and education program through hiring a seasonal river ranger. Currently the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Marine Patrol office occasionally patrol the Box Canyon Reservoir. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary supports events and may have the capacity to conduct additional patrols upon request. Pend Oreille County and the PUD are also occasionally out on the river investigating shoreline development and conducting environmental monitoring. In the future, coordination and information sharing among those entities that are monitoring or patrolling the river would be desirable to discuss any issues that arise and identify any needs for an on-the-water presence to monitor resources and educate users. As mentioned in the leave-no-trace section, a long-term goal is to have an on-going monitoring and education program for Box Canyon similar to SCL's river ranger program. This could be accomplished through volunteer patrols or potentially pooling resources from all the partners who have an interest in this program.

It is also recommended that a baseline inventory of the Box Canyon reservoir sites be conducted. This will be the standard that subsequent monitoring will be measured against. There are a number of universities in the greater vicinity of the project area that would be a good resource for creating the monitoring methodology and implementing the program.

Boating Regulations and Fees

Idaho and Washington boating regulations vary among between states and type of water craft. Idaho requires invasive species protection fees for both motorized and non-motorized boats. Links to each of the regulations for each state can be found on the water trail website. In addition, many individual access sites and campgrounds have fees associated with them. The site inventory sheets will have links to the land managers' websites so water trail users can understand the fees involved.

Trail Safety, Law Enforcement, and Emergency Response

The Pend Oreille River is a remote area and cell reception is sporadic. As of 2011, cell reception was generally available on the Box Canyon reservoir for Verizon customers. Cell reception was also available for AT&T customers in the upper part of the Boundary Reservoir, but once past Metaline Falls, cell reception was no longer available. The Sheriff's office will respond to emergency calls, but due to the remoteness of the river, users are encouraged to be trained in self-rescue.

Safety is an important part of the water trail. Water Trail users need to be aware of the river conditions, flows and fluctuations, river hazards, weather, and other safety information. Information and links on safety will be provided on the website as well as in any printed brochures. River users need to be personally responsible for their own safety. Water trail users should travel in groups and be trained in self-rescue. Wearing a personal floatation device while out on the water cannot be stressed enough. This type of education is envisioned as part of the leave-no-trace and interpretation programs. Education is also one of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's functions and they offer excellent boating safety classes that qualify students to take State Boating tests.

Implementation and Action Items

The water trail is intended to be developed over time as funding and opportunities arise. Grants will be needed to help support the trail and a list of potential funding sources can be found in Appendix B. Environmental review and documentation will also be needed to implement many of the recommendations. The water trail coordinator, land managers, and water trail committee will all be working together to help implement the trail concept. Universities and the Newport High School can offer a wealth of support and resources to the Water Trail Committee. Many students and professors are seeking real-world examples to learn from and can offer support in designing water trail access sites, signs, trail guides, and websites.

The following are the components of the Pend Oreille Water Trail to be completed first based on available staff and resources. These are intended to

provide the base level of information for users to navigate the Water Trail. As use of the trail increases and additional resources become available, other recommendations may be implemented. These actions are intended to improve visitor experience, minimize conflict, protect natural resources, and enhance awareness of the river and its recreation resources.

Action Items

1. **Water Trail Coordinator.** The establishment of the water trail coordinator is essential to the success of the water trail. A coordinator could be under the umbrella of the County Parks and Recreation Board, another key partner along the trail, or potentially a shared partnership position. An individual coordinator needs to be selected who will serve as the point of contact for the community and water trail partners, engage the water trail committee and private businesses along the trail, and seek funds and in-kind support for recommendations outlined in this plan.
2. **Signs.** Signs are an integral component in conveying information and transforming the paddling route into a seamless water trail. Both road-based signs that identify access sites for vehicles and river-based signs that identify access points for those on the river are needed. Including the water trail logo on all signs will help to identify and link the sites along the river. For river-based access sites, carsonite posts will be placed with the water trail logo on it, type of site, river mile, and land manager(s) names. The PUD is funding river-based signs for the Box Canyon sites and these are expected to be implemented in the fall 2012. Grants and other funding sources should be sought for needed road based signs. For the Boundary Reservoir, signs are being planned as part of the Recreation Resource Management Plan and would be implemented during the next ten years. It is recommended that these signs include the water trail logo. In the interim, it is recommended that opportunities to place inexpensive temporary signs at the water access sites along the Boundary Reservoir be explored with partners and land managers.

3. Website and Trail Guide. The water trail committee recommends primarily using the Pend Oreille River Water Trail Website as the best method to reach recreationists and visitors. It is envisioned that the website will be moved to a site sponsored by the Pend Oreille County Parks and Recreation Board. Enhancing the website would improve the visitor experience, use, and education as outlined in Section 3: Water Trail Website. Moving the website would be a good time to improve and add information to the site. Leave-No-Trace principles are an important value of the trail and will be included on the website. The current downloadable trail map/guide available on the website also needs to be updated to reflect the recommended water trail sites and restricted public access areas outlined in this concept plan.

4. Develop a Printed Water Trail Guide. The water trail committee envisions creating a

printed water trail guide on waterproof paper that describes the Pend Oreille River, access sites, attractions and points of interest, businesses, stories of the river valley, river etiquette, safety, and leave-no-trace principles. This guide could be sold for a small fee to create an ongoing revenue source for future reprints and updates to the trail guide as well as seed funding for other grants. Depending on funding availability, a simpler printed version of the trail guide could be developed first. This could include an 11 X 17 map detailing the water trail sites and available amenities.

5. Marketing Strategies. Collaborate with organizations and paddle clubs, state- and nation-wide to disseminate information, and to attract paddlers to the region. In addition, market the water trail through the media and feature articles in recreational and tourism publications.



APPENDIXES

(In separate files)

A – Inventory Sheets

B – Potential Funding Opportunities

C – Existing Management Plans – Box Canyon and Boundary

D – Memorandum of Understanding for Maintenance

E – Letters of Support



South Reach



Middle Reach



North Reach