



# CAPITOL LAKE/LOWER DESCHUTES WATERSHED

Long-Term Management Project Environmental Impact Statement

September 2018

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

Capitol Lake/Lower Deschutes Watershed is an expansive 260-acre waterbody located on the Washington State Capitol Campus. This waterbody is an important recreational resource and valued amenity; however, it suffers from numerous environmental issues.



*Capitol Lake/Lower Deschutes Watershed Key Concerns*

Long-term management strategies and actions are needed to address these issues in the Capitol Lake basin and surrounding watershed. In 2016, the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES), in collaboration with stakeholders, identified common goals that should be satisfied by any long-term management alternative.

In 2018, DES was directed by the state legislature to evaluate alternatives for long-term management. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared to document the potential environmental impacts of



*Capitol Lake/Lower Deschutes Watershed Map*

various alternatives and determine how these alternatives meet the long-term management objectives. The primary alternatives to be evaluated, at a minimum, include a Managed Lake, a Restored Estuary, a Hybrid, and a No-Action Alternative.

**The EIS will evaluate and identify a preferred environmentally and economically sustainable long-term management alternative for the Capitol Lake/Lower Deschutes Watershed Project.**

## CONTACT US

For more information, please visit [CapitolLakeWatershedEIS.org](http://CapitolLakeWatershedEIS.org) or email [info@capitollakewatershedeis.org](mailto:info@capitollakewatershedeis.org).



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

### WHAT IS AN EIS?

An EIS provides an impartial discussion of significant environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance environmental quality. The purpose of this EIS is not to advocate for or against a project or a project alternative. Instead, the EIS will:

- **Analyze the potential environmental impacts** and benefits of a range of reasonable alternatives
- **Assist decision makers** in improving their plans and decisions
- **Identify a preferred alternative** for long-term management

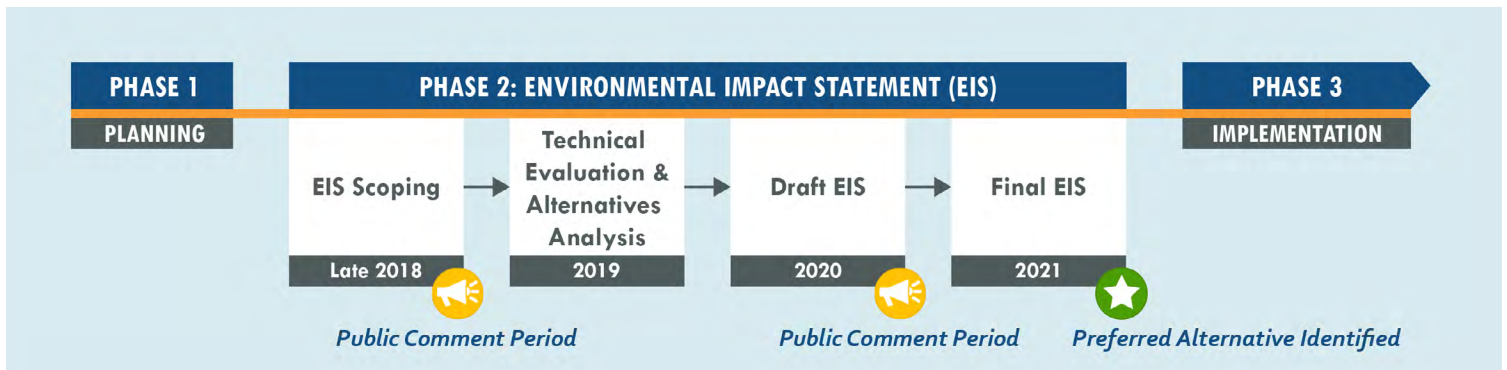
The first step in the development of an EIS is called scoping. During this phase, agencies, tribes, local communities, organizations and the public have an opportunity to comment on what should be analyzed and considered in the EIS.

### THE SCOPING PROCESS IS INTENDED TO COLLECT INPUT ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- **Alternatives**
- **Potential environmental impacts**
- **Potential mitigation measures** to avoid or minimize impacts
- **Permits or other approvals** that may be required

Scoping includes a public comment period. During scoping, DES and its consultants will host public meetings, both in-person and online, and solicit comments from the public.

When the Draft EIS is published there will be a second public comment period. Comments received on the Draft EIS will be reviewed and addressed in the Final EIS. **An EIS of this size and complexity will require about three years to complete.**



Capitol Lake/Lower Deschutes Watershed EIS Process

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST TODAY

at [CapitolLakeWatershedEIS.org](http://CapitolLakeWatershedEIS.org) and we'll notify you when the scoping comment period begins.

## CONTACT US

For more information, please visit [CapitolLakeWatershedEIS.org](http://CapitolLakeWatershedEIS.org) or email [info@capitollakewatershedeis.org](mailto:info@capitollakewatershedeis.org).

*DES has selected an interdisciplinary team of consultants to prepare the EIS. The interdisciplinary team has specialty experience in EIS development and expertise in the disciplines that will be studied.*