

Stakeholder Questionnaire No. 1

Spirit Lake Outflow Safety Improvement Project

Purpose of the Questionnaire

The overall objective of this questionnaire is to understand the key values, issues, priorities and perspectives that you have towards the Spirit Lake Outflow Safety Improvement Project (Project). The results of this questionnaire will assist the Forest Service with options analysis and decision making. Please e-mail your completed questionnaire to sm.fs.spiritlake@usda.gov no later than August 31, 2024.

Project Background

Following the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens and the resulting blockage of Spirit Lake, an outflow tunnel was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to mitigate the risk of flooding and mudflow in the event that the debris blockage was breached. The natural dam formed by the debris blockage and the outlet tunnel are not as robust as a typical critical civil works project. Prior tunnel repairs indicate the need for a redundant outflow management option, and Gifford Pinchot National Forest is engaged in a decision-making process on the optimum outflow improvement system. Gifford Pinchot National Forest is required to protect and manage the extraordinary resources and setting of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument with public safety as our highest priority. We are seeking your input to develop design options that balance the need for public safety while maintaining the unique resources and values for which the Monument was established.

Gifford Pinchot National Forest is conducting stakeholder engagement and engineering/design feasibility analysis to support the decision on a long-term solution to the Spirit Lake outflow. Please visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/giffordpinchot/landmanagement/?cid=fseprd1004094> for information on the Project. In addition to past studies and analyses of the Spirit Lake outflow, the website includes infographics that provide Project background/context and recordings of enhanced outreach meeting presentations.

Questionnaire

Question 1: How far away do you live from the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument?

- Very Close (1-20 miles)
- Close (21-40 miles)
- In the Area (41-60 miles)
- In the Region (61-150 miles)
- Far (151-250 miles)
- Very Far (250+ miles)

Question 2: How many times per year do you visit the Monument?

- None (0 times)
- A little (1-2 times)
- Some (3-4 times)
- Frequently (5-10 times)
- A lot (10+ times)

Question 3: How would you classify your primary interest in the Monument? Please choose one.

- Local Resident or Business
- Local Public Official (Municipality, City, or County)
- State or Federal Government Employee
- Recreationist (Hiking; Mountain Biking; Sight Seeing; Wildlife Viewing; Hunting; Fishing)
- Researcher or Academic
- Conservationist (Non-Governmental Organization)
- Historic Appreciation
- Job/Work Related
- Other _____

Question 4: Rank from 1 to 4 the following values in order of importance to you. A one (1) being the most important/critical and a four (4) being the least important/critical:

- _____ Risk of failure of the Spirit Lake blockage to the Toutle River, Cowlitz River, and Columbia River systems
- _____ Recreational use and access to the Monument
- _____ Ecosystem restoration
- _____ Academic research of post-volcanic eruption recovery, including the pumice plain
- _____ Local economic and tourism restoration
- _____ Sediment management downstream from Spirit Lake

Question 5: Rank the following factors in order of importance to you. A one (1) being the most important/critical and a four (4) being the least important/critical:

- _____ Cost (How much public spending is required to implement the Project)
- _____ Project Footprint (The extent and magnitude of potential environmental impacts for open channel options compared to tunnel options)
- _____ Longevity of the Project (favoring a solution that is extensive and long-lasting, rather than shorter term and requiring greater maintenance)
- _____ Duration of Construction (How long it takes to implement and construct the Project)
- _____ Minimize new permanent roads
- _____ Increase access opportunities

Question 6: What type of disturbance during the Project construction phase most concerns you? The construction phase is the temporary period when earthwork and heavy equipment are active and prior to any site reclamation/revegetation activities. Check up to three boxes.

- Geology, Soils, and Earth Resources
- Viewshed
- Noise
- Increased Truck Traffic
- Fish & Wildlife
- Water Resources
- Cultural & Historic Resources
- Restricted Recreation
- Environmental Justice
- Other _____
- Other _____

Question 7: Do you have any additional perspectives, values or recommendations on environmental protection options including public safety or project design features that could be implemented?
