

## Enhanced Outreach and Engineering Feasibility Analysis Process

1. The U.S. Forest Service Gifford National Forest Leader's Intent Statement
  - Stewarding for public safety and the outstanding geologic, ecologic, and cultural resources, of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument is an essential part of our work on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Improving the safety, integrity, and function of the Spirit Lake Outflow after 40 years of operation is a critical part of that work. The agency investment of assembling current information about Mount St. Helens, Spirit Lake and the Toutle-Cowlitz River System, as well as seeking public and stakeholder values regarding this dynamic system is crucial as the Forest Service begins environmental analysis for the Spirit Lake Outflow Safety Improvement Project.
  - The Spirit Lake Outflow Engineering Feasibility Analysis, Tribal Consultation and Collaboration, and Stakeholder Engagement are all essential components that will provide a firm foundation for the team to develop alternatives for a resilient Spirit Lake Outflow that considers the values and needs of the people and the ecological system of the Toutle/ Cowlitz River drainages and Mount St. Helens.
  - The alternatives will be informed by:
    - Government to Government Consultation with the Tribes,
    - An integrated effort in identifying concerns, issues, and values from the community as well as adjacent management and regulatory agency missions, and
    - Identification of potential Spirit Lake Outflow options as informed by an Engineering Feasibility Analysis.
  - As we strive to gain public input, the team looks forward to engaging with those interested in being a part of exploring a resilient solution to managing the outflow from Spirit Lake.
2. The stakeholder engagement phase will focus on taking input from stakeholder groups and incorporating it into the development of outflow options and the Engineering Feasibility Analysis. The Draft Alternatives derived during the stakeholder engagement process will be made available to the public for review and comment during the NEPA scoping period. This will be an iterative process with the primary goal of arriving at a Proposed Action and Draft Alternatives that achieve the project objectives of improving public safety and maintaining the environmental character of the Spirit Lake area.

The Stakeholder Engagement Process consists of circular steps:

- USFS will engage stakeholder groups to seek their input on potential outflow options. This will be done through working group sessions, questionnaires, and videos/presentations.
- USFS is developing an Engineering Feasibility Assessment during the stakeholder engagement phase to capture stakeholder input and carry potential outflow options to the design phase.
- Outflow options development plays a key role in the NEPA process. All feasible outflow options will be considered in formulation of draft alternatives for NEPA.