

# Goldendale Energy Storage Project Draft EIS



Proposed Goldendale Energy site near John Day Dam

## Public Comment Period

June 6-August 9, 2022

## Read Draft EIS

### Online:

[ecology.wa.gov/Goldendale-Energy](https://ecology.wa.gov/Goldendale-Energy)

### Goldendale Community Library

131 W. Burgen St.  
Goldendale, WA

### Department of Ecology

Central Regional Office  
1250 W. Alder St.  
Union Gap, WA  
Phone: 509-575-2490

## Submit comments:

### Online:

[ecology.wa.gov/Goldendale-Energy-EIS-comments](https://ecology.wa.gov/Goldendale-Energy-EIS-comments)

### By mail:

Attn: Sage Park  
**Goldendale Energy DEIS**  
Department of Ecology  
1250 W. Alder St.  
Union Gap, WA 98903-0009

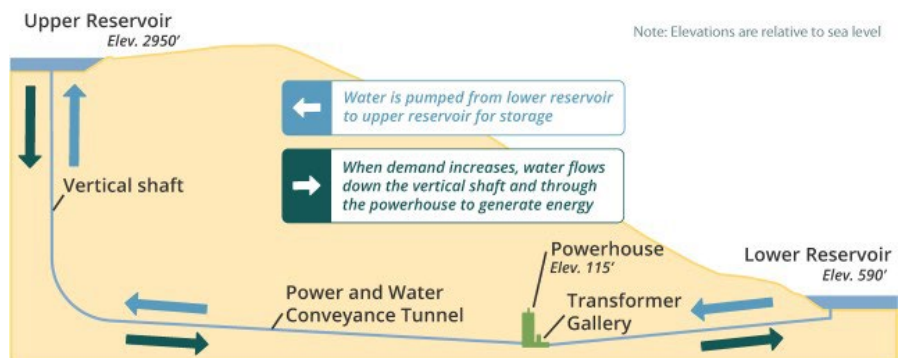
### During public hearings:

Dates and times available at  
[ecology.wa.gov/Goldendale-Energy-EIS-events](https://ecology.wa.gov/Goldendale-Energy-EIS-events)

## Energy storage project’s environmental impacts studied

We invite you to comment on a draft environmental review for the Goldendale Energy Storage Project, an off-channel hydropower project proposed along the Columbia River in Klickitat County.

Free Flow Power Project 101, LLC, proposes to build a stored energy system that releases water from an upper reservoir downhill to a lower reservoir to generate power when other energy sources such as wind and solar are not available. The power produced would feed into the electrical grid at nearby John Day Substation, in Oregon.



The Goldendale Energy Storage Project draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) reviews impacts to both the natural environment and nearby communities through studies of air quality, plant and animal habitat, transportation, water, Tribal and cultural resources. It also considers how and if impacts can be reduced or eliminated through mitigation.

## Comments accepted until August 9

The Washington Department of Ecology is required to conduct an environmental review when projects are likely to cause significant adverse impacts, and has made a determination of significance. The draft EIS identifies if, and how, these impacts may be eliminated or mitigated. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is conducting a separate environmental review of the proposed project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

## Draft EIS Significant Findings



### Terrestrial Species and Habitat

- Permanent loss of 193.6 acres of existing habitat and temporary disturbance of 54 acres.
- Impacts to special status species including golden eagle, little brown bat and smooth desert parsley and other rare plants.
- Disturbance of plants and animals during 5-year construction period.

**Analysis determined that the project would result in significant adverse impacts to terrestrial species unless proposed mitigation is in place.** The company has developed a Vegetation Management Plan and a Wildlife Management Plan that contains mitigation measures to reduce these impacts. Mitigation includes purchase of additional property to be used as wildlife habitat, animal surveys before and after construction, and timing construction around eagle nesting season.



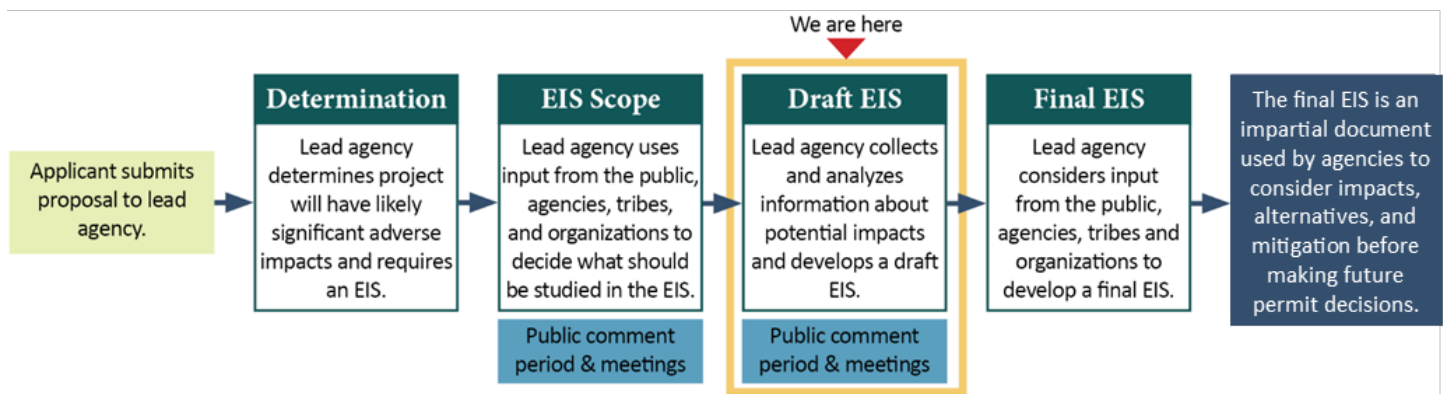
### Cultural and Tribal Resources

- Disturbance or destruction of numerous archaeological sites and sacred cultural areas.
- Degradation of the visual quality of the landscape, impacting cultural and spiritual practices
- Disturbance of plants and animals that have cultural significance to the Tribes.
- Loss of medicinal and traditional plants and foods.

Analysis of cultural and Tribal resources considered the Tribes' unique connection to and reliance on cultural and natural resources. **It was determined that the project would result in significant adverse impacts to Tribal and cultural resources.** To-date, no mitigation has been identified that would reduce the significant adverse impacts to Tribes.

## Next Steps

Ecology will review and consider all comments received during the comment period when finalizing the EIS. An EIS must be complete before any permits to construct or operate the facility can be issued. It does not decide whether a project goes forward. The final EIS is expected at the end of 2022.



**ADA Accessibility:** To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6068, or <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341. If you need this information in another language, contact Meg Bommarito [mbom461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:mbom461@ecy.wa.gov) or 425-681-6236.