



October 29, 2025

NEPA Coordinator
U.S. Forest Service
987 McClellan Road
Vancouver, WA 98661

Re: Spirit Lake Outflow Safety Improvement Project Comment

To Whom it May Concern,

The City of Longview is a city of approximately 38,00 people located along the Cowlitz River downstream of the confluence of the Toutle and Cowlitz Rivers, and the largest city in Cowlitz County. As such, it is a hub for residential, commercial, industrial, and the public health industries. Much of the City is protected by a levee and dike system that protects from flooding. Within that is an extensive network of drainage ditches and pump systems that work to keep the City dry and safe.

Due to its location the city has the potential to be directly affected by upstream failures of the flow and sediment control structures along the Toutle River and Spirit Lake. The damage and loss of life and property from an unexpected breach of the debris blockage or tunnel failure could be catastrophic for the City and dramatically impact the ability of the region to provide emergency response to affected communities.

Accordingly, safety is the City's primary concern with any potential solution. Whichever alternative is ultimately chosen, we believe the consideration for public safety should be the most important criteria. While we appreciate and value the other decision-making criteria, the safety of our city and its residents is our paramount concern.

We appreciate the efforts of the USFS in working to improve the outflow conditions for Spirit Lake, and support ongoing efforts to find a safe solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Little', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nick Little

Community Development Director

City of Longview