

million transaction) we doubt that the opportunity to provide ferry service on Lake Chelan will attract more than a few operators that the Commission would deem “fit, willing and able” to provide service under current standards. While one commenter mentioned the availability of a 40-foot that could carry 20 passengers, the operation of ferry service must also take into account proper training, adequate insurance, drug testing for crew members, the ability to handle freight, and legal agreements to access docks and landings.

For these reasons, the Commission does not recommend at this time any changes to the state laws dealing with commercial ferry regulation as it pertains to Lake Chelan. The current system ensures that basic, year-round passenger transportation is provided between Chelan and the communities of Stehekin and Holden Village, the residents of which have no reasonable alternatives to ferry service for travelling to other locales.⁵⁶

It may be that increased traffic in the future will enable the incumbent to provide more frequent service to customers and potential customers. The Commission should continue to monitor the company’s operations on a periodic basis and make recommendations for such expanded service where appropriate.

cited in Courtney v. Goltz, No. 12-35392 archived on December 10, 2013

⁵⁶ The commission also heard suggestions from commenters on possible ways the Lake Chelan Boat Company could improve customer service. These included changes to tariff rules governing commuter discount ticket packages, greater accessibility for persons with disabilities, increased dock safety, and the ability to take pets into the passenger compartment of the boat. The commission will explore these matters with the company.

