

From: Ruth Dight [<mailto:tooruth@earthlink.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 1:47 PM
To: Mike Kaputa <Mike.Kaputa@CO.CHELAN.WA.US>
Subject: Alpine Lakes Wilderness Scoping and EIS

Dear Mr. Kaputa:

I attended your presentation in Seattle and find I agree with all of the recommendations outlined on the NAIADS website listed below.

- The EIS must consider a **Wilderness Protection Alternative**. This alternative would promote wilderness values as set forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964, would not allow new water infrastructure or diversions inside the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and would require all new water supply to be obtained outside the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.
- The EIS must consider a **Water Conservation Alternative**. This alternative would assess using aggressive water conservation measures by Wenatchee Valley cities, including restrictions on lawn watering (as the citizens of Seattle have learned to do). This alternative should also assess transfer of water rights from irrigation districts to cities, where orchards have already been torn out and replaced with residential subdivisions. This alternative should also assess agricultural irrigation efficiency, such as replacing open gravity canals with pipes and pumps and other 21st century concepts.
- The EIS must consider an **Irrigation District Water Right Change Alternative**, which would fix Icicle Creek's low flow problem. This alternative would evaluate moving the Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District's water right diversion, which presently takes 100 cubic feet per second out of Icicle Creek, to the Wenatchee River downstream about 3 miles. This measure, which would permanently fix Icicle Creek's low flow problem, would convert the IPID diversion from gravity flow to pumping (requiring electrical power). The Icicle Work Group should therefore analyze renewable energy options to supply that power, including solar, wind and in-canal hydroelectric.
- The EIS must consider a **Water Right Relinquishment Alternative**. Removal of water from the Alpine Lakes Wilderness is on the table only because IPID holds water rights that were grandfathered when the Wilderness was created. And – as IPID will tell anyone who will listen – every year they use what they need. When the dam at Eightmile Lake fell down decades ago they didn't fix it because they did not need more water. When a party doesn't use their rights, they lose them. "Use It Or Lose It" – the basic rule of western water law – is controlling. The EIS needs to analyze this.

I feel especially concerned that Chelan County consider the water conservation alternative.

Thank you,

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