

From: Tom Walker [<mailto:twalker@nsecomposites.com>]

Sent: Sunday, May 08, 2016 4:24 PM

To: Mike Kaputa <Mike.Kaputa@CO.CHELAN.WA.US>

Subject: Public Comment regarding dams and water-level manipulation in Icicle Creek

To whom it may concern:

I'm appalled to read that there is serious consideration being given to building dams and manipulating water levels in lakes within the Icicle Creek drainage. These lakes are located in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and it is my opinion that only pre-existing water rights that are being used for the purposes intended, should supersede the importance of Wilderness. Specifically, I agree with the key points of the position taken by the Alpine Lakes Protection Society, i.e.,

- The Alpine Lakes Wilderness is a shared natural resource that must be respected and protected.
- The EIS should include a "Wilderness Protection" alternative, which should include an alternation of public purchase (buy-back) of private water rights in the Alpine Lakes.
- The EIS should include a "Water Right Relinquishment" alternative.
- The EIS should include an alternative that recognizes Icicle Working Group members' water rights are limited to the purposes for which they were initially granted, and cannot be redirected to other purposes.
- The EIS should include a "Water Conservation" alternative that emphasizes aggressive water conservation measures by the local water users. This alternative should evaluate a transfer of water rights for IPID to Leavenworth for properties within the city limits that have now converted from orchards to residential properties. In addition, it should evaluate how IPID spills large quantities of water back into the Wenatchee River at the end of several of its canals.
- The EIS should include a "Water Right Change" alternative.
- The EIS should analyze each proposed action's site-specific impacts, past practices, and the restoration, mitigation, and funding that are needed in the future. At each site, proposed construction activities and proposed water diversions need to be spelled out in detail.
- The EIS should discuss the hydrological and biological impacts of the current drawdown of the lakes, and any proposed changes.
- The EIS should provide a detailed operations, maintenance and environmental monitoring plan for the water infrastructure, and analysis of the wilderness impacts of specific maintenance actions, including helicopter use.
- The EIS should fully explain the purpose and need for the water these projects would provide.
- The EIS should fully explain what human activities caused the degraded conditions that the projects seek to improve.
- The EIS should analyze adequacy of proposed in-stream flows to support spawning, rearing, and migration of steelhead and bull trout.

Again, I strongly urge you to give paramount consideration to the Wilderness aspects of these areas.

Sincerely,

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