

From: Carol or Mike Wyant [<mailto:cmwyant@charter.net>]
Sent: Sunday, May 08, 2016 1:19 PM
To: Mike Kaputa <Mike.Kaputa@CO.CHELAN.WA.US>
Subject: Icicle Work Group PEIS Environmental Review Comment

Director Kaputa,

Please consider the following comments concerning the Icicle Work Group suite of proposals for long term improvement of the water management situation on Icicle Creek.

1. The suite of proposals appears to present a viable path to improving water management and increasing the amount of water that stays in Icicle Creek. However, I am concerned that the projections for water savings to reach flow targets are overly optimistic for two reasons. The first concern is that the projections rely on all of the proposed projects being completed. I believe that it is unlikely that some of the projects can be completed to the extent that they will provide the projected water savings. For example, the proposed efficiencies in the Icicle Irrigation District water system seem to be unlikely to be accomplished in my view. I wish that the suite of proposals included additional options so that meeting the target for flows does not rely on completing all of the projects. I am concerned that flow targets and the proposed positive effects of identified water management strategies are overly optimistic given many of the climate change projections for the next 50 years.

2. Though I consider myself a staunch supporter of wilderness, I am in favor of the proposed changes at the lakes in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness that are managed as water storage reservoirs. I support those changes because maintaining the existence of the reservoirs was grandfathered in when the wilderness was established. It makes sense to use the water in those reservoirs as efficiently as possible, even though doing so intrudes and will continue to intrude on the wilderness experience. I support the reconstruction of Eightmile Lake dam to its original height even though doing so will inundate land that has been above lake level for many years. While raising the height of the original Eightmile Lake dam has been taken off the table by the Icicle Work Group, I understand that it is still in mind for folks at the icicle Irrigation District. I oppose raising the height of the original reservoir because that would represent a change to the agreement to keep the existing reservoirs when the wilderness was established.

3. As each individual project comes up for approval I would like to be assured that sufficient scientific study is in place to make it relatively certain that the project will have the positive effects that are proposed and that the possibility that the project will have unintended negative consequences has been thoroughly considered. I would also like to know that each project that has the potential to impact the icicle ecosystem includes a plan and the resources necessary to study the post-project impacts. Too often it seems that projects are completed with the idea that they will improve an ecosystem when there is no post-project evidence that they actually had the intended effects and that they are not, in fact, having a negative or unintended effect.

Thank you for considering these comments.

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