

From: Chester Marler [<mailto:northfork@nwi.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 4:18 PM
To: Mike Kaputa <Mike.Kaputa@CO.CHELAN.WA.US>
Subject: comments concerning the Icicle Work Group's "Icicle Strategy"

Hello Mike—pleased to see Chelan County and DOE initiating this collaborative effort. A few comments follow:

- ? Eightmile Lake restoration—would like to have the PEIS uncover the documentation that establishes the historic high water line. I was unaware it was so high, rather surprised. Also I assume some adverse affects to recreation values from both the raising of the lake in the spring and lowering to levels below current drawdown. Mitigation might include some trail re-routing around the lake, constructing new campsites on higher ground, softening the appearance of vegetation removal for the higher reservoir, etc. PEIS need to acknowledge the goal of protecting Wilderness values, not simply meet the letter of the law—acknowledge the feelings of Wilderness enthusiasts.
- ? Optimization and modernization of the flow from the lakes are great—should have been accomplished long ago.
- ? Water conservation by IPID and COIC does not appear as robust as it could. This should be more specific—not so many “mays” or “coulds”. Both districts need to address the non-agricultural use of a significant portion of their water—watering of extravagant and very large “lawns”. This tends to lessen the public image of the districts, and makes one wonder if legislative changes to the state’s water rights laws are in order. Better to address the issue without regulation and use common sense ethics instead. As we all know water will be increasingly precious in the decades to come.

At some point in the future the pressure on water resources will be much greater and I would not be surprised to see many responsible citizens asking for fundamental changes to water law. This could include reducing water rights when lands change from agricultural use to suburban. A time will come in the NW when agriculture will need to use water much more sparingly—not more open canals and watering on windy, hot daytime periods. Perhaps the PEIS could look ahead and at least discuss how some of these issues will require being more flexible and creative in finding solutions.

Chester Marler
Leavenworth