

From: Ted Whitesell [<mailto:ted.whitesell@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:50 AM
To: Mike Kaputa <Mike.Kaputa@CO.CHELAN.WA.US>
Subject: Icicle Strategy Public Comment

Mr. Mike Kaputa
Director of Natural Resources
Chelan County

Dear Mr. Kaputa,

I understand that the Icicle Work Group is developing a water management strategy that could include infringing upon the wilderness character of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness by constructing dams, altering water levels, and issuing water rights for several lakes in the Wilderness Area. Even if only part of this is true, it would infringe upon the mandate, established by Congress in the 1964 Wilderness Act, to protect our designated Wilderness Areas in an untrammled condition for all future generations. Even if you feel that there are some legal pathways that might sanction such infringement of the wilderness character of the area, it is important to remember that there are many individuals and organizations who stand ready to defend all designated Wilderness Areas from such infringement, through the courts and the political process, if necessary.

The National Wilderness Preservation System is just a remnant of the once magnificent wilderness our ancestors enjoyed in this country only a few generations ago. We must resolutely defend every parcel that is left, no matter how convenient and logical it may seem to take a little water here or there, "just this once." Wilderness designation is intended to provide the most durable and stringent protection of any federal land classification. It must never be compromised.

Please enter my comments in the record of public comments on the Icicle Strategy.

Thank you.

Edward Whitesell
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