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Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 8:18 PM
To: Mike Kaputa <Mike.Kaputa@CO.CHELAN.WA.US>
Subject: Icicle strategy comment

I attended your meeting in Seattle and wanted to thank you for coming here to tell us what you'd like to do in Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

I understand the rationale behind your proposal to revive the old dams on some of the lakes there. I can see why you would like to do it. But I don't think you should. Doing that ought to be the absolute LAST thing you consider if water in the Wenatchee basin runs low. And here's why: Alpine Lakes Wilderness is a sacred place, in many ways to many people.

It should not be subjected to artificial manipulation - period. Just because it was manipulated in the past is no reason to start manipulating it again now.

Those old decrepit dams should be left to deteriorate naturally as they have been, to keep the current lake levels as unchanged as nature allows. Just the sheer amount of motorized incursions into Wilderness there to rebuild those dams and associated infrastructure is in itself anathema to what Wilderness is and represents - the last enclave of natural processes "untrammled by man." Chopping-in concrete and construction equipment would be as appropriate there as in the Sistine Chapel! No, come to your senses and if you're short on water do EVERYTHING else first, starting with a ban on lawn watering and taking other such water conservation measures. And the fish hatchery is a big water waster, fix that first. It just makes NO sense to damage a natural area if anything else could be done beforehand to see if the water equation could work without damaging Wilderness.

We're in the Age of Elwha now, we're looking at taking out dams and restoring natural waters. The last thing we should be doing (literally) is building up old dams anywhere.

You started your talk by saying you didn't understand why you hadn't made any progress getting this Icicle Creek watershed management plan done for so long.... Maybe it's because so many people don't want you to touch Wilderness. It's probably as simple as that.

Philip Fenner
Seattle