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Mike Kaputa  
411 Washington Street, Suite 201  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

RE: Icicle Working Group Proposals

Dear Mr. Kaputa:

Impacts to Recreational Use at Eightmile Lakes and other Lakes.

The Irrigation districts has easements on only 2 of the 4 sections that underlie Eightmile Lake. The other two sections are wilderness and don't appear to have "easements". Please explain how the IWG can flood congressionally designated wilderness lands without involving the U.S. Forest Service in these discussions. I do not see any consultation with the Forest Service listed in section 9 of your SEPA checklist until the point of obtaining permits is reached. Now is the time to address these issues.

I see that the question of water rights has been raised within the working groups. It has been suggested that since the district did not use all their rights in the Eightmile drainage that they might be forfeit. I do know that in the last 40 years of my activities in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, I have never seen any drawdown of the reservoir. Admittedly, this anecdotal observation is highly sporadic, but, the question needs to be addressed. The Icicle Irrigation District should provide its records regarding its use of water from this lake.

Eightmile Lake is a very popular destination in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. While Icicle Irrigation has rights to its existing dam and reservoir, the operation of these facilities will greatly impact the experiences of many, many wilderness users who use this area. I would like to see a discussion of how the Irrigation District and its partners will mitigate some of the ugly visual effects of raising the level of the lake and then lowering well below current levels. The effects to plants and wildlife need to also be addressed. Improvements at other lakes also need to consider the visual and ecological effects to

Remote monitoring and control of existing facilities appear to be a good modern option if the equipment needed for this activity can be blended into the surroundings without intruding on wilderness values.

Conservation:

The proposal includes many possible projects that include water conservation principals. But these projects are not definite and are described as might occur and maybes. Water conservation for the Leavenworth City Area is proposed but other water district users need to reduce their consumption of water. Agricultural practices need to be more efficient and reduce their water intake. The most egregious cases in point the emerald green lawns in the Ski Hill Area and Icicle Valley. While the Fish Hatchery has a legal mandate, it too needs to produce a

water savings with more efficient equipment and fish rearing techniques. These need to be “will happen” projects and not “mights” and “maybes”.

As we are all aware, the world of water availability is changing and we can no longer continue to be efficient under existing water laws. While these laws will not change for this project, the Icicle Working Groups needs to champion conservation measures and improved facilities (non-leaky) water distribution systems) for rational and equitable water distribution.

Sincerely,

Ann L. Fink