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TESTIMONY OF THE ALPINE LAKES PROTECTION SOCIETY  
before the  
House Capital Budget Committee  
Olympia, WA

January 13, 2017  
On HB 1075

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to testify on the Governor's Capital Budget Request. While we support many of the environmental funding requests for the FY17-19 Biennium, we continue to raise concerns about the Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River (OCR).

The Alpine Lakes Protection Society promotes environmental protection and conservation of the Alpine Lakes area of the Central Cascades. We have expressed opposition to efforts by the Office of Columbia River to promote, via the Yakima Plan, new National Recreation Areas within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest promoting off-road vehicle use; to flood a National Forest trail and ancient forests from a new Bumping Lake Dam; and to adversely impact bull trout habitat at both Bumping Lake and Lake Kachess. In addition, as the Washington Water Research Center's 2014 report to the Legislature documented, none of these water projects have a positive benefit/cost ratio.

In addition, the Yakima Plan "model" of having decisions made by a small group of parties who would benefit from their own decisions is now being used in the Icicle watershed of the Wenatchee River Basin. An Icicle Work Group, partially funded by OCR, has prepared a plan including new storage projects within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. ALPS has grave concerns about both the process and the plan devised by the Icicle Work Group (see attached ALPS article).

In summary, at a time of spending demands, it is critical that the Legislature review and refrain from funding water projects that do not pencil out. We request that the Legislature ask for a Performance Audit of OCR's last ten years, before any further funds are provided. Thank you.