

**Alpine Lakes Protection Society * El Sendero Backcountry Ski and Snowshoe Club
Endangered Species Coalition * Friends of Bumping Lake
Kittitas Audubon Society * Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition (MidFORC)
North Cascades Conservation Council * Olympic Forest Coalition
Western Watersheds Project * Western Lands Project**

January 22, 2014

Sally Ericsson
Associate Director for Natural Resources,
Energy and Science
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Associate Director Ericsson:

We strongly urge that the President's FY 2014 and FY2015 budgets not provide funds for the Bureau of Reclamation's controversial Yakima "Integrated" Plan water storage projects for the following reasons:

- * The Bureau of Reclamation issued a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS) that did not provide a range of alternatives (other than the required no-action alternative). The President's budget should not fund a plan that does not provide a range of alternatives for decisionmakers.
- * The Bureau of Reclamation is in the process of scoping the Cle Elem Pool Raise, K-to-K conveyance, and Kachess Inactive Storage elements of the plan. Draft EISs will not be released until Summer of 2014. The President's budget should not fund a plan while EISs have not been completed.
- * In 2013, the Washington State Legislature passed ESSB 5035, which includes Sec. 5035 requiring a benefit-cost analysis of the individual elements of Yakima Plan. This analysis is to be completed by December 15, 2014. The President's budget should not fund a plan while benefit-cost analysis information has not been provided.
- * The Yakima Plan includes proposals for two new massive irrigation storage dams, a new dam on the Bumping River that would destroy ancient forests and endangered species Critical Habitat designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on lands of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, and a Wymer Dam between Ellensburg and Yakima that the Bureau of Reclamation found in 2008 would have a benefit/cost ratio of 0.31 and flood greater sage-grouse habitat.
- * The Bureau of Reclamation prepared the Yakima Plan using a Workgroup of their own selection and of which they were a member and co-chair, in violation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

In addition, the day after the close of comments on the Draft Programmatic EIS, Bureau of Reclamation added a proposal for two National Recreation Areas within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, which included 46,000 acres for backcountry motorized recreation (motorcycles, ATVs and 4x4s on trails, and snowmobiles cross-country). The President's budget should not fund a plan that contains this controversial proposal.

See:

http://washington.sierraclub.org/uppercol/ucr/yakima/media/Entries/2013/2/15_The_Other_Side_of_the_Story__Yakima_Water_Plan_1.html

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alpine Lakes Protection Society
Rick McGuire, President
11025 24th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98125

El Sendero
Backcountry Ski and Snowshoe Club
Gus Bekker
PO Box 5622
Wenatchee, WA 98807

Endangered Species Coalition
Brock Evans, President
P.O. Box 65195
Washington D.C. 20035

Friends of Bumping Lake
Chris Maykut, President
4000 Aurora Avenue North
Suite 224
Seattle, WA 98103

Kittitas Audubon Society
Jim Briggs, President
P.O. Box 1443
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition (MidFORC)
Mark Boyar, President

6332 57th Ave S
Seattle, Washington
98118-3021

North Cascades Conservation Council
Karl Forsgaard, President
Post Office Box 95980
University Station
Seattle, WA. 98145-2980

Olympic Forest Coalition
Connie Gallant, President
P.O, Box 461
Quilcene, WA 98376-0461

Western Watersheds project
Katie Fite, Biodiversity Director
PO Box 2863
Boise, ID 83701

Western Lands Project
Janine Blaeloch, Director
PO Box 95545
Seattle, WA 98145