

**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

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

We strongly urge that the President's FY 2014 and FY2015 budgets not provide funds for the controversial Bureau of Reclamation's 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](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,

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cc: The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Marie Cantwell  
The Honorable Jay Inslee