

## **Bumping Lake Enlargement Dam Destroying 2000 acres of Ancient Forest**

The US. Bureau of Reclamation (initially, jointly with the Washington Dept of Ecology) studied three potential dam projects: (1) Black Rock, (2) Wymer Dam and Reservoir, and (3) Wymer Dam plus Yakima River Pump Exchange project. In December 2008, the BuRec issued its *Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study Final Report/EIS* and concluded that none of these projects had a positive benefit-cost ratio: 0.13, 0.31, and 0.07 respectively.

In addition, the BuRec early on decided to drop the Bumping Lake Expansion from its study and summarized the problems with the Bumping Lake Expansion:

The William O. Douglas Wilderness Area, approximately 170,000 acres, is adjacent to the existing Bumping Lake. None of the reservoir enlargement options that have been considered were within the Wilderness Area boundary. However, a common concern voiced was that the enlarged reservoir would be visible from various vantage points and detract from the scenic vistas and aesthetic value of the Wilderness Area through reservoir drawdown and exposure of the reservoir bottom area. About 2,800 acres of terrestrial habitat, including approximately 1,900 acres of old-growth timber, would be inundated if Bumping Lake were enlarged to a capacity of 400,000–458,000 acre-feet. Old-growth timber serves as habitat for the spotted owl, an ESA-listed endangered species.

Enlarging Bumping Lake would inundate approximately 10 miles of perennial and intermittent stream habitat downstream from the existing dam and upstream of the existing reservoir, affecting the aquatic ecosystem and fishery resources. This is compounded by the recent designation of Deep Creek and Bumping River as critical habitat for bull trout.

The larger-capacity reservoir would not fill on a regular basis and would not be a reliable source of water. Previous studies identified approximately 14 summer homes within the impact area of the enlarged reservoir. It was proposed that these summer homes would need to be relocated downstream from the new dam. A number of the owners opposed downstream relocation. The enlarged reservoir also would inundate existing recreational facilities and approximately 9 miles of U.S. Forest Service road, plus approximately 17 miles of road that would be closed, terminating all vehicle traffic above the damsite and road access to campgrounds above the existing reservoir. In addition to the roads, about 4 miles of trails would be inundated. These actions would hamper accessibility to areas above the reservoir. Increased traffic associated with construction activities at the new dam, including logging of the enlarged reservoir area, would have an adverse impact on the community of Goose Prairie. Further, increased recreation use at an enlarged reservoir also could adversely affect the community. While the concept of a natural (unregulated) hydrograph was not a primary issue in the past, it has become a significant concern in recent years. Representatives of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and others expressed considerable reluctance at the spring 2007 Storage Study Roundtable discussions to include an enlarged Bumping Lake as a storage alternative to be carried into the planning report and environmental impact statement phase of the Storage Study.” BuRec Final Report/EIS, p. 2-129

[source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, *Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study Final Report/EIS*, 2008 [http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/storage\\_study/reports/eis/final/volume1.pdf](http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/storage_study/reports/eis/final/volume1.pdf)]