

Testimony of Friends of Bumping Lake

House Committee on Capital Budget

Olympia, WA

February 22nd, 2013

On HB 1414

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, Friends of Bumping Lake is a membership organization that seeks to protect the existing ancient forests, critical endangered species habitat, and recreational opportunities of Bumping Lake within the Wenatchee-Okanogan National Forest, southwest of Goose Prairie, WA. There are currently 15 cabins surrounding the existing Bumping Lake, including 2 that have been recognized for Historical preservation. These cabins, a marina, a National Forest campsite that welcomes over 20,000 people each summer, and National Forest trails, along with the ancient forests and critical endangered species habitat would all be flooded and destroyed by the proposed Bumping Lake dam. There are no plans to rebuild or replace any of those facets, all of which are irreplaceable anyway.

HB 1414 would accelerate this path of destruction. The House should not appropriate more funds on the Bumping Lake project because it is not the most cost-effective nor best way for Yakima famers to get water in drought years. The Department of Ecology itself has identified numerous Enhanced Water Conservation projects that together could save more annual acre-feet of water than an enlarged Bumping dam could ever produce, yet mandatory conservation is not a part of the Yakima Basin Plan.

During previous testimony on SSB 5367, Senator Honeyford heard a lot of testimony on Bumping Lake and brought Derek Sandison from Ecology back up to ask him about other options that Ecology had identified in case “some storage facet of the current plan gets dropped.” Mr. Sandison indicated there was other inactive storage that had been identified, much like the 200,000 acre feet that are planned for utilization in the K-K pipeline portion of the Yakima Plan. Simple math shows that the cost of water created from a new Bumping Dam is more than three times the cost per acre-foot of water produced from inactive storage such as the K-K pipeline. During budgetary times such as these, why not push for the most economical and least controversial option?

In an era of celebrating dam removal and returning impacted ecology to natural balances, these destructive, incredibly expensive dams are not what we as a state should be concentrating our precious budgets on. Friends of Bumping Lake requests that you send Ecology a message that they should re-prioritize their strategies and instead of throwing away needed money, use the political power behind irrigation security to change existing laws and use a more thoughtful approach to getting what is needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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