



Naturam Expellas Furca

Tamen Usque Recurret

WISE USE MOVEMENT

P.O. Box 17804, Seattle, WA 98127

February 7, 2013

RE: Written Testimony on SB 5367 – Senate Agriculture, Water and Rural Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Agriculture, Water and Rural Economic Development Committee, the following are comments of the Wise Use Movement for the hearing record on SB 5367:

The Wise Use Movement remains opposed to construction of a new Bumping Lake Dam and Wymer Dam in the Yakima Basin and to the establishment of new National Recreation Areas (NRAs) within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for off-road vehicle use.

The Wise Use Movement submitted comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for the controversial Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (Integrated Plan). In March 2012, the Department of Ecology and Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) issued a Final Programmatic EIS (FPEIS) that remains fatally flawed. The FPEIS failed to present a range of alternatives and has included a new proposal for NRAs with off-road vehicle (ORV) use without providing for public comment. The BuRec failed to consult under the Endangered Species Act. In addition, many of the “responses” to comments on the DPEIS appear to be inaccurate or misleading.

In March 2012, the Wise Use Movement commented on the FPEIS and specifically asked for a response to our comments, from both Ecology and the BuRec. Neither agency has done so. This is just another example of how Ecology, without proper Legislative oversight, has continued to disregard public notice, opportunity for public comment, and closure of Yakima Workgroup subcommittee meetings to the public.

We find it odd that Senate members who align themselves with the Tea Party and deny climate change would support spending over a billion dollars for new storage dams that are claimed to be needed because of climate change. We also find it odd that Senate members who align themselves with the Tea Party and are opposed to increasing the State’s budget, would support spending over a billion dollars for new storage dams, particularly when the BuRec calculated that the Wymer project would have a Benefit/Cost ratio of only 0.31. The Legislature should review the wasteful spending history of Ecology’s Office of Columbia River before it spends another dime or authorizes more wasteful dam planning studies.

John de Yonge
President
Wise Use Movement