



**Western  
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*Working to protect and restore Western Watersheds and Wildlife*

## **Testimony of the Western Watersheds Project**

Submitted to the  
Committee on Energy and Water Resources  
U.S. Senate  
on S.1694

July 7, 2015

Senator Murkowski and members of the Committee. Please include the following testimony of the Western Watersheds Project on S. 1694.

On June 7, 2011, the Western Watersheds Project provided scoping comments on the Yakima Plan Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS). We also provided comments on the DPEIS. However, the Bureau of Reclamation failed to provide a range of alternatives in the DPEIS as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

After the deadline for DPEIS comments, the Yakima Workgroup included a new proposal for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest to create two new National Recreation Areas with 41,000 acres dedicated to off-road vehicle (ORV) use.

We are also concerned that the Yakima Plan proposes a new Wymer dam that would flood sage grouse habitat, and a new Bumping Lake dam that would flood endangered species habitat for bull trout and Northern spotted owls.

Finally, we note that the Bureau of Reclamation has not completed the Draft EIS for the Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant or Keechelus Reservoir to Kachess Reservoir Conveyance projects, even though these projects are included in S. 1694. Therefore, we remain opposed to the passage of S. 1694.

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