



Statement of the Sierra Club to the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Work Group – July 28, 2010

The Sierra Club re-affirms its statement to the Work Group of July 15, 2009 that:

- * The Work Group process and limited public Task Force membership established by the BuRec and Ecology does not meet basic requirements for public participation.
- * New dam construction and irrigation water storage projects are national issues, because new dams have significant adverse economic and environmental impacts.

The Sierra Club re-affirms its statement to the Work Group of November 9, 2009 that:

- * The Sierra Club reasserts its support of fish passage measures and water supply solutions that involve common-sense water management. We believe that in the face of climate change, aggressive water conservation, adoption of water efficiency standards and metering, water markets, low-impact storage projects (e.g., aquifer storage and recovery), forest and flood-plain restoration, and other strategies to promote natural storage are much more cost-effective than new dams, and could vastly improve the efficiency of water use in Washington State.
- * The Sierra Club remains opposed to new storage projects on the Yakima River and its tributaries, including the Bumping Dam Enlargement, Wymer Dam (on Lmuma Creek), and Black Rock Dam.
- * The Sierra Club remains opposed to the Bumping Lake Dam small option as set out in the Discussion Draft Integrated Package because it would still flood late-successional and old-growth forest land that includes threatened spotted owl and bull trout habitat; a National Forest inventoried roadless area that should be added to the William O. Douglas Wilderness Area.

The Sierra Club supports funding for conserving and restoring land in the Yakima River Basin. However, we find that such conservation and restoration should not serve as “mitigation” for the permanent loss of bull trout habitat and old growth national forest lands surrounding the existing Bumping Lake or shrub-steppe land flooded by a Wymer Dam.

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