



June 23, 2014

Derek Sandison  
Director, Office of Columbia River  
Department of Ecology  
15 W. Yakima Ave, Suite 200  
Yakima, WA 98902-345  
dsan461@ecy.wa.gov

Dear Mr. Sandison:

For more than 40 years, Washington Environmental Council (WEC) has provided expertise and advocacy on protecting, restoring, and sustaining the state's environment. WEC has extensive experience in water resource management, forestry, and habitat protection in the Yakima basin through projects like the restoration of Manastash Creek and creation of the Office of Columbia River and the implementation of the Columbia River Management Program.

Over the years, we have seen the benefits of collaborative approaches to resolving long standing conflicts between instream and out-of-stream water demands. WEC is encouraged by recent efforts between environmental interests, the Yakama Nation, local governments, irrigators, the state, and others to develop a broad water management plan to improve streamflows, ensure reliable water supplies, and enhance habitat restoration in the Yakima basin. Therefore, WEC supports implementation of the first phase of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (Plan), which covers projects that are moving forward now through 2025. Our understanding is that the first phase of the Plan consists of the following components:

- Fish Passage at Cle Elum and Tieton (Rimrock) dams
- Cle Elum Pool Raise
- Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant and Keechelus to Kachess Conveyance
- Teanaway Acquisition/Community Forest
- Acquisition of at least 10,000 Acres of Checkerboard Forest Land
- Invest \$100 million in Habitat Restoration
- Invest in \$85 million in Water Conservation and Efficiency
- Creation of a Robust Water Bank/Water Market
- Wild and Scenic River Designation
- Develop and Adopt Financing Plan

WEC is not taking a position at this time on potential projects that go beyond the first phase of the Plan, including expansion of Bumping Lake and construction of Wymer Dam. These projects may carry significant environmental impacts and require thorough study, review, and analysis. We expect all parties in the Yakima Plan will benefit from such information as it become available and will consider it in evaluating the merits of these projects. WEC intends to do the same. Although

significant work lies ahead, we support the ongoing work of our partners to collaborate, develop, and refine the broader Plan.

Thank you for your work and for considering our comments. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Becky Kelley  
President, Washington Environmental Council

Cc: Maia Bellon, Director, Department of Ecology  
Tom Loranger, Water Resource Program Manager, Department of Ecology  
Ted Sturdevant, Executive Director of Legislative and Policy Office, Governor Inslee's Office