

Attention: Derek Sandison
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Department of Ecology
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Attention: Candace McKinley
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CC: David Lester, Yakima Herald
Joanna Markell, Ellensburg Daily Record
Courtney Flatt, NWPR

COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO YAKIMA WORKGROUP - June 20, 2012

RE: Proposed New Bumping Lake Dam

The owners of the Bumping Lake Cabin Community and members of the Friends of Bumping Lake would like to request that this document be accepted into the official record expressing our concern and opposition to the proceedings of the YRBWEP Workgroup regarding the Workgroup's decision to dam and destroy our community. For more than two years the Workgroup has conducted its sessions without transparency and with the meetings of the Implementation Subcommittee closed to the public. The failure of open process has resulted in a plan that would permanently and adversely affect thousands of stakeholders who care about Bumping Lake. Not once have the either the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation or Washington Department of Ecology attempted to contact residents at Bumping Lake or communities in the upper Naches River area to collaborate, discuss, or even inform us on these proceedings.

These decisions have been made public to us by way of other groups that were not allowed to participate as Workgroup members, but have been carefully monitoring the proposals that have been finalized in recent months. Even as the Workgroup is actively pushing its plan in Congress and Olympia, lobbying for early action taxpayer funding, and moving forward with this idea of building a new Bumping Dam, nobody from the Workgroup has reached out to our community in any way.

It is clear to us the outcome of this project: everything that we love in this area will be permanently destroyed. The high water line of a new Bumping Dam is above our cabins, above the marina, above the campground, and includes 2,000 acres of ancient forest as well as endangered species habitat for Northern spotted owls and bull trout. The burning question in our minds is this: how can Yakima irrigators decide the fate of a place that is so special to so many people without having the decency to contact those of us who would be permanently impacted?

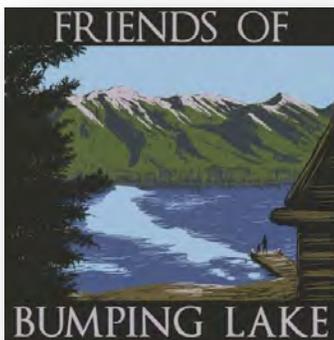
Much of the Bumping Lake Community was built by our great-great grandparents in the 1930's and 40's. Six generations of families have experienced this beautiful place and call it home. Far from an electrical outlet and out of cell phone range, it is a rare and pristine wilderness that contains some of Central Washington's last ancient forests. It is irreplaceable, cannot be offset by for-flung preservation deals, and should be preserved for all to enjoy for many generations to come.

The Department of Ecology admits "by itself, the Market Reallocation Element has the potential to offset much, but not all, of the irrigation-related economic losses from a future severe drought."* The Federal Register notice regarding water management and conservation plans for the Central Valley Project - according to Section 3405(e)(1) - states these criteria must be developed: "with the purpose of promoting the highest level of water use efficiency reasonably achievable by project contractors using best available cost-effective technology and best management practices."

While we do not oppose the goals of the YRBWEP Workgroup, Friends of Bumping Lake oppose the new Bumping Dam as it has been proposed. **The Workgroup's final plan does not mandate water marketing or conservation.** In an era of celebrating dam removal and returning to natural ecosystems, thoughtful, **regulated water management is the best choice for all.**

We are dedicated to the permanent preservation of the recreational, ecological and familial heritage of Bumping Lake, and will do everything in our power to meet these goals. We ask that the Workgroup acknowledge these errors and take remedial action to include Friends of Bumping Lake in all communication relating to the Workgroup, take into account the thousands of stakeholders who will be adversely affected by your plans, and remove the proposal to build the Bumping Lake Dam from the Yakima Plan.

Chris Maykut, President
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*www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/reports/FPEIS/fpeis.pdf